PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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HERE, PEOPLE POWER BEGAN

TWENTY-FIVE years ago today, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino came home seeking "no confrontation" with those who had imprisoned him under the Marcos dictatorship for seven years and seven months and caused his three-year self-exile in the United States.

Even as he was coming home to face a death sentence by firing squad, his arrival statement that he was never to read spoke of "reconciliation founded on justice."

He was shot 32 seconds after he stepped out of the plane with five military escorts. Ninoy fell, a wire figure in white stretched out on the tarmac 'neath the noonday sun of Aug. 21, 1983, in a puddle of his own blood, nearby by his alleged assassin, a "man-in-blue," his.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A9

NINOY GOES HIP The hero's trademark eyeglasses connect to the next generation the better for the young and restless to see the country with the Ninoy, clear-eyed vision. (Story on Page A9.)

Less than 10 people in plot; 5 core, 5 others 'in the know'

By Fe Zamora

(First in a series)

(Editor's Note: The first part is based on interviews with Vir Babico, former CIS [Criminal Investigation Service] investigator, now chief of the legal division of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group; retired Judge Jesus Guerrero, special prosecutor at the retrial of the Aquino-Galman case; and ex-Col. Jovito Vic Torres, former commander of the Presidential Guards, the uniformed component of the Presidential Security Command during the Marcos dictatorship.

Retired Brig.Gen. Tomas Dizon, former commander of the 1st Philippine Constabulary Zone, a retired brigadier general who headed an intelligence unit in the National Capital Region in 1983, a retired brigadier general who was based in Malacañang from the 1970s to the early 1980s; and a retired air traffic official.

The last three sources would like to spend their retirement in peace, thus the request that their identities be withheld.)

AN HOUR AFTER FORMER SEN. BENIGNO Aquino Jr. was shot dead on Aug. 21, 1983, a military agent verbally reported to his unit commander his assignment of monitoring the turnout of the Manila International Airport.

After listening to the report, the commander said: "O, who was there?" The agent replied: "Si Colonel (Rodillo) po, sir."

The unit commander did not ask further

LESS THAN A9

'Beyond Conspiracy': Someone got away with murder

By Nestor U. Torre

REVIEW

IN 1983, NINOY AQUINO AFFIRMED HIS resolute claim, "The Filipino is worth dying for," by giving up his life for his countrymen. In time, they responded in similarly heroic kind.

"Ninoy, hindi ka nag-iisa!"—said, led by his widow Cory, achieved the political apotheosis needed for Ninoy's assassination to be transformed into martyrdom.

But, 25 years later, can the now liberated Filipino also resolutely vow, "Ninoy, hindi ka namin nakakalimutan"? The youth, especially, generally have only a vague no-

BEYOND A9

'Hunt rebels; talk peace'

Gov't takes two-track position on MILF

By Michael Lim Ubac, Jocelyn R. Uy and Alexis Papa

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is pursuing a two-pronged policy in Mindanao—hunt down relentlessly those responsible for the recent wave of violence and keep peace talks open.

Ms Arroyo told a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday night that lack of control by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) over its field commanders "reflects the organization's lack of sincerity to push for a successful conclusion of the peace process," according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

"The President detects the MILF leadership's lack of control over its so-called base commanders," Ermita yesterday said, reading from Ms Arroyo's statement. "This excuse has been abused for too long and the President now draws the line."

"To attain these objectives,

HUNT A4

IS THERE ROOM AT THE INN? A family displaced by the fierceness of the MILF raids certainly hopes so. They knock on the door of a total stranger to ask for shelter from this shop owner in Iligan City on Tuesday night. At press time, 13,000 evacuees were occupying the Iligan City National High School, the City Central School and the West Central School in Barsaran. (STORY ON A2)

'Commissioner' and 'dirty' swap insults at CA probe

By Lelia B. Salaverria

THE TWO KEY FIGURES IN the bribery scandal rocking the Court of Appeals (CA) faced off at a hearing yesterday, trading barbed remarks and essentially accusing each other of lying.

Businessman Francis de Borja, who took the stand, denied having offered CA Justice Jose Sabio Jr. P30 million, pointing him to accept it, and acting as a broker of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco). But Sabio stood by the claims he made in his affidavit.

Sabio asked De Borja at one point, why the businessman was being called a "commissioner"—or one who earns from commissions. And De Borja told Sabio that certain people had

COMMISSIONER A6

No Go; last man standing a woman jin

By Ted S. Molavidez
Sports editor

BEIJING—TROUBLE GO YES-terday blew what perhaps was his country's biggest crack at a medal, bowing to a more aggressive Ryan Cottrell of Australia, 1-0, on his very first match at the Beijing Olympics' taekwondo competition.

Go later missed the chance to fight for the bronze medal in the men's -58 class when the

NO GO A17

AFP launches air strikes vs rebs; civilians arming

By Joeffroy Malicdem
Inquirer Mindanao

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—The military yesterday launched air strikes against suspected rebel positions after guerrillas fired rocket grenades at an Army outpost in the latest flare-up of violence in Mindanao that sent thousands of civilians fleeing.

Black smoke billowed from Tapikan 1 village, about 8 kilometers from here, where some 50 fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) attacked an Army outpost and burned the nearby village of Tapikan 2, military authorities reported.

The villages are located in the municipality of Mamasapano, along the border with Shariff Aguak, a town of about 50,000 formerly known as Maganoy.

Maj. Armand Rico, spokesperson for the military's Eastern Mindanao Command (Sandatahang

AFP LAUNCHES A6

False text messages send hundreds running out of their homes in Iligan

By Rex Ortega
Inquirer Mindanao

ILIGAN CITY—AT LEAST 400 people ran out of their homes on Tuesday night, dragging their children with them, following reports that Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels had already entered the city or were at its doorsteps.

No thanks to text messaging that spread the false information.

Some of the messages read: "They are moving along the Iligan-Bukidnon highway"; "they are at the market place destroying stores"; "they are at Tambacan bridge"; and "there is firefight in Tipanoy!"

The messages began to circulate at 7 p.m. and flew around

FALSE TEXT A4

Word war: MILF leader calls Erap 'utak pulbura'

By Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—"UTAK PULbura" (war freak).

This was how the chief peace negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) described for-

WORD WAR A6

Palace on MOA: No renegotiation, only review

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN renegotiation and review?

Malacañang yesterday said it would not renegotiate the deal on an expanded Bangsamoro homeland but only "review it and undertake negotiations that will lead to the crafting of a peace agreement within the context of the Constitution."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita repeatedly referred to the same words used by Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera in the manifestation she filed on Tuesday in the Supreme Court.

Devanadera had asked the high court to dismiss protests over the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on ancestral domain with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), saying Malacañang would renegotiate the draft accord anyway.

He stressed that Devanadera's statement to the court did not mean that "everything that is existing will be renegotiated." In the review, he said "there will be explanations on what should be corrected."

Ermita recalled that prior to the initialing of the MOA, the government amended using terms "that are not agreeable ... to the other panel such as refer-

PALACE A8

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2 FOUR DIGIT
11 25 3 6 1 9
SUERTRES
6 4 6 1 8 7
1 1 7
MEGALOTTO 6/45
07 18 22 36 40 44
P4,500,000.00

7 die as Karen pounds North Luzon

Typhoon triggers landslides, uproots trees and topples billboards

BAGUIO CITY—TYPHOON "Karen" (International name: Nuri) lashed Northern Luzon yesterday with its peak winds of 140 kilometers per hour, triggering landslides that killed at least seven people, disasters officials reported.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **PSYCHIATRIC** test for OFWs to be evaluated /A5
- **MERALCO BID** vs estafa plaint junked by court /A7
- **EX-TOP SPY** now heads gov't intelligence arm /A3

Rains poured hard over the summer capital at dawn, sending a crushing wall in Barangay Privacy Pilot, killing 71-year-old Pelia Bacdac.

Rescue workers said the collapsed wall tore through Ka-dal-al's kitchen where she was taking her morning coffee.

Six hours later, another landslide in Barangay Dizh in Atoyac, Benguet, buried one-year-old Mark Anthony Jimenez, his brothers Lester, 3, and Alvin, 10.

Camille Bandoc, 12, died when a tree fell on her before noon in Pensacola, Abra, the Office of Civil Defense reported.

The agency also reported that a landslide at sitio Nabalobong, Barangay Natubleng, in Bugnay, Benguet, killed Arnold Alfiz, 37, who was out at 9 a.m. cleaning an irrigated canal.

Another fatality, 77-year-old Hilario Bacbagyan, was reported in La Union.

Lt. Rocco Nieto, Dinamis Tamonan, 50, of San Nicolas was reported missing after he was swept away by strong currents while trying to cross the Bulsa river.

But Baguio residents showed up to report about the "tremendous" severity of a swamp, who was found with no pulse under rocks and mud in Sto. Scholastica Village.

Doctors at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center were able to revive Hermino Siete Gaspar, 21. He remained in critical condition and is breathing with the aid of a manual respirator at the hospital.

Storm signal No. 3 was hoisted over northern Cagayan, Apayao, Ilocos Norte, Batanes and the Babuyan Islands. Signal No. 2 was hoisted over the rest of Cagayan, Kalinga, Abra, Ilocos Sur, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Benguet and La Union, including agencies which reported toppled billboards and uprooted trees.

Classes were cancelled in the northern provinces. By noon, classes were also suspended in Metro Manila which experienced torrential rains and flooding.

Brenan Bondi, which said from prepared to heavy volumes, and basic because of ongoing repairs along the alternate Marcos Highway, are again closed at 3 a.m. due to landslides now in Antamok-Klondyke-rock formation.

A section of Marcos Highway collapsed a month ago due to a broken drain that washed out the base of the road.

Magallian Bond, which links Baguio to the Ilocos provinces, is open to traffic.

THREE boys play in the rough waters of a swollen Marikina River Wednesday

The road connecting Baguio and neighboring La Trinidad town in Benguet, however, had to be closed to all vehicles.

The town hosts the trading center that supplies 80 percent of Metro Manila's vegetables. Marcos Jones managed to reopen the road by 9 a.m. according to the Office of Civil Defense.

Major sections of Halsema Highway that lead to Itogon in Benguet and Mt. Province are open to vehicular but engineers are rushing to clear sections also ground by landslides. These areas included the stretch of road sliding the unpredictable pocketing towns of Acop, Kapangan, Kibungan and Balaoi in Benguet as well as Bontoc town in Mt. Province.

The road linking Cervantes and Kalinga to Cagayan Road were also closing expansion because of a slide.

Hydroelectric plant managers of the Ilaga and Ambuklao dams in Benguet have opened a series of their gates in a precautionary measure because rains have elevated dam waters to near critical levels, the OCD said.

Rains forced authorities to cancel preparatory classes and early-spoke skills which would have kicked off on Tuesday, said Jose Armel Amoris, OCD Cagayan Valley regional director. Reporters from Marvel Gabriel, Frank Cimatu, Elmer Ulanday Inquirer, Delmar Cariño, Tillamar Hugo Jr. Inquirer Northern Luzon; Gerardo Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon; Alexis Pajo and TJ Burgonio in Manila and AFP

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for Batch 2008 Board passers will be held on Thursday, 21 August 2008, 5:00 pm at Emperor Villa Seafood Restaurant
460 Quintin Paredes Street, Binondo, Manila
Phone Numbers: 2435555 to 60

Cabuay is new head of gov't intelligence agency

FORMER TOP SPY PEDRO Cabuay is the new director general of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA).

The retired Army lieutenant general replaces fellow retired general Leon Garcia who resigned two weeks ago due to health reasons.

A 1976 Philippine Military Academy graduate, Garcia has served at least seven years as head of NICA, the government's primary intelligence arm.

President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Cabuay to head NICA after accepting Garcia's resignation which becomes effective on Aug. 31. Currently, NICA deputy director James Kraft is serving as officer in charge.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita made the announcement yesterday of Cabuay's new post, even as he praised Garcia as an "instrumental" in the intelligence circles because of an unblemished career in this and as an adviser to the Philippine National Police.

Garcia is regarded in intelligence circles as a "straight officer".

Cabuay, for his part, was commander of the Southern Luzon Command and later chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In 2006, he became the deputy national security adviser upon the behest of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales. Michael Lim Ubac

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Date	Time	Location	What
August 23, 2008	1:30pm - 2:45pm	World Trade Center Lobby	Press Conference which is open to the public
August 23, 2008	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Mitsubishi Pavilion	Autograph Signing & Photo Opportunity
August 23, 2008	5:00pm - 6:00pm	Mitsubishi Pavilion	Autograph Signing & Photo Opportunity

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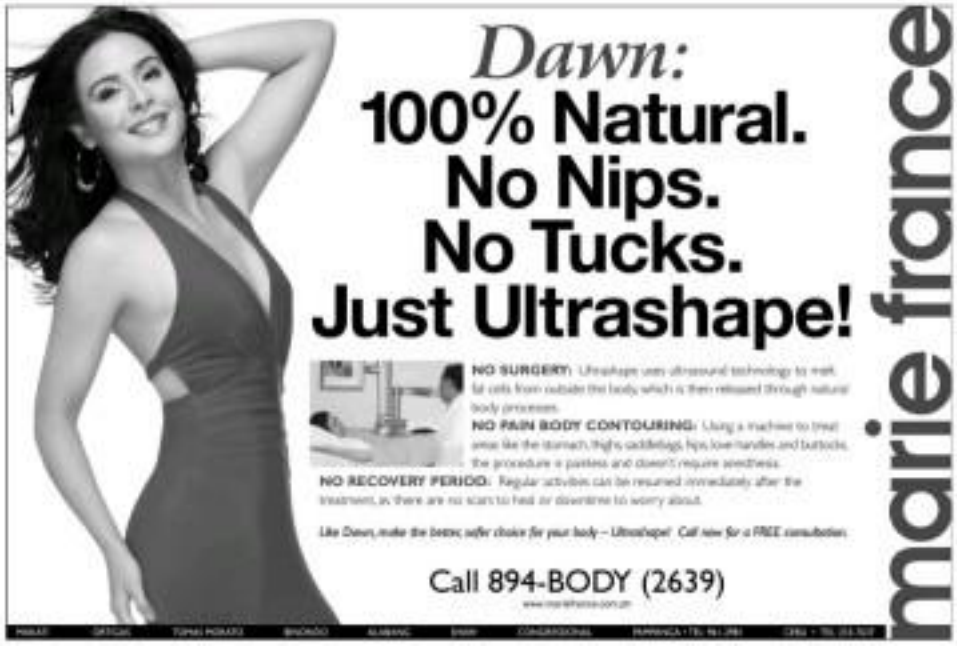

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Civil duties reduced. Upland residents living near the mountains of Iligan pack whatever they can grab and get on whatever vehicle is available and rush out to the city as their refuge. AFP PHOTO

Thousands of evacuees return; but others pack up and leave

By Inquirer Mindanao

KOLAMBUGAN, LANAO DEL Norte—More than 1,400 people packed their belongings and left for Misamis Occidental on Tuesday to stay with relatives or join other evacuees in Oroquieta City and nearby Clarin town.

Most of them came from the same puroks and the nearby uphill village of Pantao, the scene of major skirmishes after Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels entered the town on Monday.

"We are afraid that when it gets dark, the rebels will suddenly return," a 52-year-old mother of two said in Cebuano.

She said she would move into a relative's house in coastal Pulot village in Clarin. Her husband remained with a relative in Riverside village, taking care of their house and farm during the day.

Short of rice

From some 7,300 evacuees listed by Oroquieta City's social welfare and development office on Tuesday, the number swelled to over 10,000 yesterday, adding pressure on relief resources.

Lubo Baraa, city social welfare and development chief, said the agency was short of rice, adding that stockfeeds of canned were sent by business establishments.

Food was not much of a problem, Baraa said. Local officials and teachers of schools serving as temporary shelters helped prepare the meals of evacuees.

The provincial government of Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte, and the city government of Oroquieta have been supplying the food and medicines.

Provincial employees of Lanao del Norte stationed in delivering relief goods.

Schools in eight coastal villages of the city near Iligan the evacuees. Classes there have remained suspended.

Relocation

Around noontime, provincial officials of Lanao del Norte started preparing the evacuees to return home following a Philippine Army advisory that the security situation had already stabilized.

A fast batch of over 1,200 evacuees sailed to Molas aboard a ferry in the afternoon, while some 2,000 more awaited another trip. Some 6,500 people were reported to go back to their homes within the day.

Governorate-run evacuation centers have been set up at the Misamis Civic Center and the provincial bus terminal in Tubod town.

Iligan evacuees

In Iligan City, some 13,000 people were occupying the Iligan City National High School, the City General School and in the West Central School in Buruun.

Volunteers from the Mindanao Tripartite Youth Core, a coalition of students and young volunteers, organized games for the children.

Vice Mayor Henry Dy said large donations arrived today, including 300 sacks of rice from Mokot Wayor Jejomar Binay, P128,000 worth of foodstuffs and laundry soap from the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, P50,000 from the Chinese Business Club and 40 sacks of rice from Cagayan de Oro Vice Mayor Nemia Emano.

According to Rebot Bedil of Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology's Institute for Peace and Development, the evacuees needed more food, cooking utensils, bolos, blankets, mats, clothes and medicines. Ryan D. Rosares, Christine Godines-Ortega and Jim Ortega, Inquirer Mindanao

7 hurt in Zambo grenade blast

ZAMBOANGA CITY—SEVEN people were wounded when a grenade exploded on Mayor Cesar Climaco Avenue here at around 6:40 last night.

Senior Supt. Ludimer Dionio, city police chief, said an unidentified man on a motorcycle lobbed the grenade beside Shrine Hotel near the city's bus stations. The grenade landed on the sidewalk and exploded, wounding passersby, he said.

The names of the victims were not immediately available. Julie L. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

THE BELOVED HERO'S HOME This widow of Col. Angel Benitez, Maria Elena, gives her husband a hug during Wednesday's wake at the family residence in Iloilo City. AFP

False text messages send hundreds ...

From page A1

for an hour. Some stores closed shop, employees went home to pack their belongings and move out of the city, while others rushed to City Hall or the city proper.

Local officials had to go on air to calm down panicky residents and advise them to go home.

At City Hall, soldiers and policemen came with tanks and military vehicles to assure the people of protection.

Military protection

Mayor Lawrence Cruz announced that the military had sent 4,000 soldiers from the 4th Infantry Battalion and 104th Army Brigade to secure the city.

He told residents to go home and defend themselves, "ang mga Jigansen, matakot gyud to nang mga kampo ni sakniss. Maj-amps sa sa crimes pamvan Jigansen ere bevse. are Rights diame Enemy of Amas. Let's pray to our patron saint St. Michael the Archangel," he said.

St. Michael the Archangel is said to have protected the people during World War II and in times of crisis.

Despite the mayor's appeal, some residents decided to spend the night in City Hall while others remembered to the evacuation centers or their homes to pack.

Vehicles headed for the port Odiong people went to churches to pray.

Paranoia

The paranoia was inadvertently heightened when troops came in reinforce those who verified reports of MILF rebel sightings. Those different uniforms somehow fueled the confusion.

A sobering text message also spread, telling the people to stop believing the other text messages because only the big telecommunications firms would dispatch them to it.

In Manila, Brig. Gen. Jorge Segovia, acting chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' command center, appealed to the public to stop spreading unverified reports through text messages, saying they only added confusion to Mindanao.

"We should not believe everything we receive on text messages and should not pass them on as it only amount to sow panic and confusion," Segovia said during a weekly forum in San Juan City. He asked the public to be more discerning of the messages they received.

Not all-out war

He disclosed that the AFP had not received any information of possible attacks on Metro Manila. But just the same, he said, the AFP National Regional Command had been placed on full alert.

Segovia clarified that the military had not waged a war against the MILF. "The MILF is not the enemy. It's not an all-out war for the AFP but a law enforcement engagement," he said. With a report from Nancy Carvajal in Manila

Zubiri on GMA's noted temper: It's just motherly love

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT'S JUST "MOTHERLY LOVE."

Take it from Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, who himself has personally experienced the temper of President Macapagal-Arroyo several times.

"I have known her for eight years and for me that is just normal of her," Zubiri said in a phone interview when asked to comment on Mr. Arroyo's recent display of her temper.

Zubiri said Mr. Arroyo had also yelled at him several times during meetings, and although the first time he felt slighted, the next occasions did not bother him anymore, as his friends in the cabinet explained to him he should not worry.

"It is just like what a mother would tell his son—after a while she would talk to you again," Zubiri also said. He said the occasions she had been yelled at were usually discussions of policy matters with Mr. Arroyo.

"That is really just all her character. She does not seem to insult you. I got used to it. I don't take it personally," he said.

But opposition Sen. Pimentel Lacson said "a good leader is one who maximizes his or her competence and doesn't exhibit temper tantrums."

"If a leader panics, and flares things, she would be unable to make sound decisions. That is why the Philippines is in such bad shape," Lacson said as quoted by Filipinos.

Malacañang has denied reports that Mr. Arroyo threw a fight-up during her outburst.

Noli: Evaluate proposed psychiatric test for OFWs

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO yesterday said the government should seriously study a proposal to make psychiatric testing mandatory for departing Filipino workers.

De Castro, the presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, said the proposal from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has to be evaluated in the face of cost and effectiveness.

"That's a good proposal but the question is who will pay for it? Will it really stop the growing incidents of heinous crimes being committed by Filipino workers abroad?" he said.

Leoncia Corazon Jr., the undersecretary for migrant workers affairs, said the ailing mainstay of Filipino workers traveled in droves abroad now the administration behind the proposal.

"The rule defense that we put up is to plead insanity whenever these OFWs are found guilty of heinous crimes. Perhaps there is a way to address this problem and one of them is to determine their overall fitness because workers, particularly domestic helpers, are exposed to abuse so we have to really prepare them," Corazon said.

2 cases

He cited the cases of domestic helpers Maribel Nanasio and Mary Vizlora whose death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment by the time of Arroyo as a result of personal appeals from Philippine officials. The two were later found to be mentally unstable.

Corazon said the decision on whether to adopt the proposal will be made by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, which accredits institutions that recruit Filipinos to work abroad.

Departing OFWs usually undergo medical examinations, which also include mental health tests. But De Castro noted that all departing workers manage to pass them without much difficulty. Simply put, he described as "simple."

He said it would be difficult to know from these tests whether a departing worker has a history of insanity or could become insane in remote areas abroad or stranded. It would take someone of extreme or keen skill, a psychiatrist to determine mental fitness of mentally, he said.

Problem

"The problem is, do we have enough psychiatrists to conduct the tests considering the big number of departing workers? Does the Department of Health have enough psychiatrists? It might be an additional burden both to recruiters and the applicants so we have to study this seriously," he said.

The Philippine Migrant Rights Watch, a coalition of migrant rights groups, said the fees for psychiatric tests would just be an added burden to domestic helpers.

Labor Secretary Marianito Roque said they would still have to meet with the DFA to study the merits of the proposal and whether this can be successfully implemented.

Meanwhile, 34 Filipino workers from Jordan who sought De Castro's help to be repatriated arrived yesterday.

De Castro told the workers some all misdemeanors and had no army because they were being abused. He said they were not paid their salaries.

Legality of higher tax on cigarettes upheld

THE SUPREME COURT YESterday declared as constitutional a provision of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) which levies higher taxes on cigarette brands that entered the market after 1996.

The high court en banc unanimously affirmed the constitutionality of Section 143 of the NIRC that levies new cigarette brands at their current net retail price and existing brands at their net retail price as of Oct. 1, 1996.

It also nullified two regulations imposed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue to implement the NIRC provision which empowered the bureau to reclassify or update cigarette brands every two years or so.

The case arose from a suit brought in 2003 by the British American Tobacco (BAT), the manufacturer of Lucky Strike Filter, Lucky Strike Light and Lucky Strike Menthol Light brands, against the tax commissioner and the BIR regulations which it said violated the equal protection and uniformity clauses of the Constitution.

After the Makati court upheld the constitutionality and validity of the NIRC section and the two BIR regulations, the BAT elevated the case to the high court.

In its ruling, the high court said the questioned provision did not violate the equal protection clause as it addressed Congress' concern not to give too much authority to the tax implementors to avoid potential abuse and corruption. Aurora Ariing

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 31, 2006
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
Year I

1st Reading: 1st Cor 3:1-9
Gospel: Mt 23:1-12

Jesus went on speaking to them in parables:

"The reign of heaven is like the kingdom of heaven. A king celebrated the wedding of his son. He sent his servants to call the invited guests to the wedding feast, but the guests refused to come.

Again he sent other servants ordering them to say to the invited guests: 'I have prepared a banquet, slaughtered my fattened calves and cattle for it, and all is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' But they paid no attention and went away, some to their fields, and others to their work. While the rest seized the servants, maltreated them and killed them.

The king became angry. He sent his troops to destroy those murderers and burn their city. Then he said to his servants: 'The wedding banquet is prepared, but the invited guests were not worthy. So, then, to the crossroads and invite everyone you find to the wedding feast.'

The servants went out to the roads and gathered everyone they found, good and bad alike, so that the hall was filled with guests.

"The king came in to see those who were at table, and he noticed a man who was not wearing the festal garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in without the wedding garment?' But the man remained silent. So the king said to his servants: 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the dark where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Many are called, but few are chosen."

Commentary

Just like the invited guests in the parable, we can often find excuses that will get us out of a social event. We, like them, can claim to be too busy or to have other, more important things to do.

But no excuse will do when it comes to the invitation to take part in the life of the Kingdom of God, most especially the wedding feast of the Lamb of God. The Lord summons us to the Eucharistic banquet of Body and Blood, and He will accept no excuse. May we make ourselves ready at all times to respond to the Lord's gracious invitation.

Gaston Consecration Foundation, Inc. / Educare II, 2/F Ellipse Ellison, Quezon City, UPIS, Box 4 Diliman 1101 Quezon City, Tel. No. (02) 921-9646 Fax No. (02) 921-0133 Email: info@educare.ph Website: http://www.educare.ph [illegible] Educare II is the Montessori Secondary School of the Gaston Consecration Foundation, Inc. and is located at 2/F Ellipse Ellison, Quezon City. Email: info@educare.ph

Kenney prefers peace talks to Erap's call for all-out war

By Marlon Ramos and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

US AMBASSADOR KRISTIE KENNEY TUESDAY said she supported former President Joseph Estrada's opinion but that she preferred peace negotiations with Moro rebels "than seeing violence and destruction."

"I certainly respect opinions," Kenney said when asked about Estrada's call for an all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), but added that "nothing was better the opportunity to talk and negotiate, this is much better."

Kenney told reporters during her visit at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, that the Philippine government and the MILF should resume peace talks and resolve amicably issues related to connection with the controversial deal on an expanded Moro homeland.

She said leaders of both sides should "think seriously on how to bring peace forward."

Kenney said that the US government would respect whatever decision the Arroyo administration made in finding a long-term solution to the decades-long war in Mindanao.

"Whatever works best for peace in Mindanao, it's for the Filipinos to decide," she said.

Kenney said it was "troubling" to see bombs being disclosed from their customs airline and forced to stay in evacuation centers.

$90M in US aid

"The solution of taking to violence is not a good recipe. And it bothers me, someone who loves this country, to see the bombings intensifying. It's not effective of the Philippines that I know," she said.

Kenney lauded the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police for its efforts in maintaining peace and order in North Cotabato and Lanao provinces.

She said the US government's development aid to Mindanao would continue despite the intensified violence in the area.

This year alone, the US government allotted at least $90 million to the Philippines' Mindanao peace, health and reconstruction projects in Mindanao, Kenney said.

US stay criticized

Sen. Joker Arroyo, however, wants to know how long American troops will remain in Mindanao.

"My support there for staying for their own interest, it's for the Filipinos to decide," Arroyo said.

He said it was "troubling" to see bombs being disclosed from their customs airline and forced to stay in evacuation centers.

Word war: MILF leader calls Erap 'utak pulbura'

From page A1

ture President Joseph Estrada for suggesting that the government should declare an "all-out war" against the rebel group like what he did in 2000.

The word war elicited after Estrada remarked in a Bombo Radyo interview on Tuesday that it was useless to talk with the MILF because, he said, it never honored its commitment.

He cited the latest attacks by MILF forces in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte.

Estrada's call for renewed hostilities was aired simultaneously in many parts of Mindanao.

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said Estrada's statements would not help but only complicate the situation in Mindanao. "He (Estrada) is utak pulbura," he said.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF deputy chief of information, claimed that Estrada had no more moral authority to speak on any national issues because he "is a convicted criminal, a plunderer and ogling womanizer."

Estrada is no longer President, Iqbal said, and "as a private person, he should shut up."

Estrada was found guilty of plunder by the Sandiganbayan on Sept. 12, 2007, and sentenced to life imprisonment, but he did not serve a single day in the national penitentiary when he was granted pardon by President Macapagal-Arroyo several weeks after his conviction.

Estrada retort

"They're (MILF rebels) the ones killing people," Estrada quickly retorted at the MILF leadership yesterday when reached for comment by the Inquirer upon its release.

Days ago, I received information that 17 civilians were murdered or got shot from a bus and were gunned down. This is in Lanao del Sur. How many more innocent civilians can we afford to lose? he said. He said he got the news of the Aug. 18 attack from Zamboanga City sources.

Estrada, who once served in Mindanao as a Commander in Chief's camouflage uniform, said he wouldn't take back his stand that the military solution was still the only way to deal with the MILF. He had more fighting men against the group than he thought he already defeated when he declared an "all-out war" in 2000.

"I already wiped them out. The present administration only allowed them to regroup," he said.

It was during Estrada's administration that the military drove the MILF out of its stronghold in Camp Abubakar in Maguindanao.

"We've been negotiating for 10 years. How long will we negotiate? The only solution is to face them in the battlefield," Estrada said. "They are not only a terrorist group. They want to take the whole of Mindanao."

'One country, one flag'

Estrada said he would support any move that would destroy the country. "We are only one country, one flag," he said.

Iqbal admitted that the situation, especially with the peace process, had become uncertain now in the wake of the attacks in Lanao del Norte and South Cotabato. According to the government, more than 100,000 people had been displaced in the two provinces.

As a result, Malacañang said it was studying closely the peace process.

Iqbal continued the government spokesman explaining military forces to calm the Moro participants. "Stand patient. Be calm and not weak," he further said, he said.

The government, he said, must continue pursuing the process of finding a peaceful and lasting solution to Mindanao. "When there is peace, not only Muslims but also Christians and the Philippine government will be benefited," he said.

Negotiations to continue

Ms Arroyo's peace adviser, Hermogenes Esperon Jr., said that while the government continues to consider the views of the MILF commanders, it would continue to pursue the negotiations. The MILF commanders involved in the attacks will be properly dealt with, he said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermoden Yano said the military remained under the Balikatan counter-terrorism exercises with the United States, and would, therefore, offer counterpart forces, by the Lanao del Norte violence.

Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio Ledesma urged that AFP not to be crippled while carrying out its operations.

"There is already talk of the military confronting its operations in Lanao del Norte to go after the perpetrators. We are reminding them to be careful not to bring about collateral damage especially on innocent civilians. The biggest losers here are the civilian populations," Ledesma said.

"While we condemn violence and the killing of innocent civilians, we also seek the continuation of the peace process," he said.

Bishop's appeal

Ledesma disagreed with Dagupan archbishop Oscar Cruz and opposition senator who had blamed Ms Arroyo for the conflict. "We don't have to place the responsibility on any particular individual," he said.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo Archdiocese echoed Ledesma's appeal, saying the people should find ways to peace.

"I am an advocate of amicable reconciliation, with due respect to people who would rather resort to violence. I, as a Christian, am being challenged all the more especially by the Holy Father to be one hatched to reinforce love to revenge," Quevedo said.

"We have to help people to look for a venue to vindicate their righteous anger over the injustices they are having," but that "we need to channel it in a manner that is consistent of nature. God will be contributive to the solution rather than aggravate. Exception, and maybe hopefully it we could seek that out," he said. *Reports from Grace Alfonso, Aella Alipala, Jeoffrey Maitem in Cotabato City, Cecille Suerte Felipe and Agnes Zenaida Bermudez in Quezon City, Gil Cabacungan and Jaime Bendecio in Manila*

What Were Before

Erap military conquered main MILF camp

THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) were crumbled in the hands of the military during the term of President Joseph Estrada.

In July 2000, Camp Abubakar, the MILF's main headquarters in Maguindanao, fell after seven days of relentless attacks. It topped four months of an all-out military operation against MILF strongholds across Mindanao and spelled the weakening of the rebel force's influence.

The "all-out" offensive was launched in March, sweeping all the way to fighting in Mindanao's six provinces that shares decades ago. One after the other, the MILF bases fell, including Camp Bilal in Ilanan, Lanao del Norte and Camp Rajahn in Buliq, Lanao del Sur, its second largest training base.

By June 2000, the military reportedly had taken over 222 of the 46 MILF camps amid the eventual collapse of Abubakar.

According to documents signed by the government and MILF peace panels in 1997 and 1998, and revised in 1999 against Alimudin attacking the town of Malabang, Buldi and Parang in Maguindanao, and portions of Ramayan and Buldin municipalities in Lanao del Sur.

The camp had a military population of 30,000, two-thirds of (others) are farmers, traders, artisans, craftsmen and fishermen," the document said. *Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research*

'Hunt rebels but talk peace'

From page A1

every arsenal at the disposal of the Armed Forces and the police will be utilized without let up," he said.

The military has held Ondoy Kato and Abdulla Macapaz, more popularly known as Commander Bravo, responsible for the violence.

Army officials have said the two MILF commanders will be hunted down and the government has placed a bounty of P5 million on each.

But he said the two warm were attacked by "soldiers of Allah." In an interview with Radio Mindanao Network, he said he was not responsible for the attacks, but would defend himself.

"If the government declares an all-out war, we will defend the same," he said.

Prepared to kill

"We are prepared to trade live with them until we are destroyed. If they cannot liberate us, we will liberate them," Bravo said. "We are prepared to kill, we are prepared to be killed."

"What the Muslims want is Islamic justice in Mindanao," Bravo said.

"Our eyes of Allah say are not revenges," he said, reacting to accusations by some government officials that he and his rebel unit no longer followed the MILF chain of command.

Bravo is a senior MILF leader who controls huge rebel areas in the mountains of Lanao in Mindanao. Short and of medium build, Bravo struggle with Datilan Rato is a spectacular bailout who has repeatedly escaped attacks despite ongoing peace talks.

Eradication policy

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. yesterday elaborated on the President's two-track position during a town hall meeting in Iligan City. Lanao del Norte, where he listed agitated local executives angrily denounced the all-out war against the MILF.

The rebels resumed coordinated attacks on Monday against five towns in Lanao del Norte that left about 40 civilians dead, according to the government.

"It might be a very popular policy here to have an all-out war against them," Teodoro said.

"My policy is to secure and defend, in accordance with the law, innocent civilians and to preserve the integrity of the republic, but not by eradicating people like they are mice. Whether that is popular or not, I will stand that ground, and my oath of office depends on it," he said.

'We must not go overboard'

"The point is we must not go overboard," Teodoro said. "We also have to heal (and) at the same time improve justice."

Despite the rhetoric, there has been no major fighting in the region since Monday although there were reports of sporadic gunfire and government artillery fire. Page A2 ❑

MILF chief Ibrahim Murad told ABS-CBN television news that it was still possible to return to the peace process. "We didn't expect that (the attacks) to happen," Murad said.

"But we are optimistic we can still save the peace process. This can be the beginning of war if the people are humbled, but there is still a chance of going back to peace."

Murad said the Lanao attacks on Kolambugan and Kauswagan towns in Lanao del Norte by MILF fighters on Monday were not sanctioned by him, but he ascribed them to the frustration of local commanders after the aborted signing of an accord on an expanded Moro homeland by Malaysia on Aug. 5.

After appeals from local officials in Mindanao that they were not consulted, the Supreme Court halted the deal that was meant to respond to end peace talks to end a conflict that has killed over 120,000 people and displaced 2 million.

Downplays bounty

"From our side we are trying our best to resolve our commanders," Murad said. "The first thing we have done is to remove them from further initiating military movements."

But Kabalo, MILF spokesperson, downplayed the bounty offer by the government as flimsy and lame. He said the MILF would protect itself from the assault launched against them without passing through the ceasefire committee.

"We will defend our field commanders if here is used against them by the government. We have mechanism about it and it would be good for all if the mechanism is followed," Kabalo said.

Respect for human rights

Bishop Mario Rey Boquiren Caidoy said the MILF had a lot of explaining to do.

"It will be up to the MILF to prove that it is still a liberation movement ... that respects the International Humanitarian Law," Caidoy said, referring to conventions on war and internal conflict to prevent unnecessaries.

"It won't help its image abroad if its troops don't respect human rights," he added. "Otherwise, it will be viewed as a rogue organization."

"It is the MILF's obligation to make public its findings in the investigation of the violations and enforce the international humanitarian law or the Islamic rules (of war)," Caidoy said.

UN humanitarian aid

The UN's World Food Program (WFP) yesterday said it would dispatch an additional 2,000 metric tons of rice to Mindanao on top of the 400 metric tons it delivered last week.

"In the current unpredictable security situation, vulnerable civilians in these clashes urgently need to receive humanitarian assistance," WFP country director Stephen Anderson said.

Anderson said there were concerns of a "worsening humanitarian situation in Mindanao. With reports from Norman Bordadora, Edwin O. Fernandez, Rachel V. Uriel, Inquirer Mindanao, AP/AFP

AFP launches air strikes against rebels

From page A1

cent, said find 14 fronts of the 848 Infantry Battalion were wounded in the rebel assault that triggered a firefight with responding soldiers.

6 bombing sorties

He earlier were carried out by an S-211 jet, an AF-260 turbo-prop and OV-10 Bronco, according to Maj. Gerardo Zamudio, Philippine Air Force spokesperson. They carried 60- and 120-lb bombs, he said.

Lt. Col. Juliete Amin, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said the Army also fired several mortar and howitzer rounds to drive away the advancing rebels, who began to the 105th Base Command of Umbra Kato and 106th Base Command of Commander Abdul Tandok.

There was no report of casualties on the MILF side, but Amin said soldiers were preparing the Bronco rebels and that episodic firefight had taken place.

The clashes along the highway not far from where soldiers and MILF rebels were exchanging gunfire parked their belongings and evacuated to the town proper, where some 4,000-6 trucks had gathered.

MILF denial

But Eid Kabalo, MILF central military affairs chief, denied MILF forces initiated the violence.

"When you are attacked, normally you will fight back, that was what happened in Mamasapano," he said.

Amin said the military was watching clashes in areas of Central Mindanao that the MILF reportedly planned to attack.

"We have received intelligence reports that rebels are planning to attack the towns of Buguias, Bauko and Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat and they will block the Cotabato-Davao highway," he said.

Firearms for civilians

In Zamboanga del Norte, Gov. Rolando Yebes said the provincial government had decided to buy firearms for distribution to civilian volunteer fighters following the reported sightings of MILF rebels in the towns of Siocon, Sirawai and Sibuco.

"Men, who surround the provincial peace and order council on Tuesday, said the purchase of firearms was part of the security measures they had planned against possible threats to the safety of the residents.

"We are preparing defensive postures," he said.

Yebes said the provincial board was now trying to allocate funds for the purchase of firearms.

"We have to prevent ourselves. We don't want to be at the mercy of those armed elements and then the military could not use them anymore. They can't hurt," Yebes said.

But Yebes said to prevent possible abuses, those who would be issued the firearms would not be allowed to bring them outside their areas of responsibility.

PNP to distribute shotguns

In Manila, Director General Avelino Razon of the Philippine National Police announced plans to distribute at least 1,000 shotguns to residents who will join police auxiliary forces in Mindanao. He said that if the project would be successful, the PNP would order 12,000 more shotguns.

"The police provincial directors will determine how guns will be distributed," Razon said in a phone interview with reporters in Camp Crame.

Razon justified that the distribution of firearms is "legal and proper" under Executive Order No. 546 issued last year which expands the PNP's role in internal security operations to counter-insurgency.

He added that those qualified to receive the guns are law-abiding citizens with no criminal records, village chiefs and barangay security people. They will undergo training and will receive allowances.

With reports from Jenelle Ruddlle, Inquirer Mindanao; and Agnes Zenaida Bermudez and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Inquirer Mindanao; and Alexis Pages in Manila

180-degree turn by power firm

FROM AN EARLIER EXPRESSED WILLingness to have its books scrutinized by the Commission on Audit (COA), the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) has done a 180-degree turn, now questioning the authority of the government agency to conduct an audit on a private entity.

In letter dated Aug. 4 to Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) chairman Guillermo Luz Decir, Meralco regulatory management office head Maritez Jacob said it acknowledged the ERC as its "sole regulator, authorized by the [Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001] to act as such for purposes of rate-fixing, among other things."

"We consider this as respectfully bring to your attention that the mandate and authority of the COA is limited to the audit of books, records and accounts of all government entities. This authority does not extend to private corporations like Meralco," he said.

He further said that Meralco could not find any legal basis for the COA to unilaterally assert its mandate against the request of a private entity—the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore). Abigail L. Ito

Meralco loses bid to stop DOJ action on estafa suit

A MAKATI COURT HAS THROWN OUT A petition from the directors of the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) seeking to restrain state prosecutors from acting on a syndicated estafa complaint filed by a consumer watchdog group against the distribution utility.

Judge Maryann Corpus-Mañalac rejected the plea by the Meralco officials led by chairman Manuel Lopez on issue an injunction against the justice department and the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore).

In an order dated Aug. 11, the Makati court said it did not have jurisdiction over the case as the respondents, particularly the Department of Justice (DOJ) officials, were based in Manila and not in Makati. The court said it was not the proper venue for the Meralco petition which should have been filed in a Manila regional trial court.

Mañalac said she found it "irrelevant" to rule on the rest of the issues raised by Meralco in its petition because of the lack of jurisdiction.

Nasecore officers quickly declared victory, saying the DOJ could now go after Meralco "with hammers and tongs" by acting on their complaint.

"It's a triumph of justice, paving the way for the prosecution of Meralco for declaring as income part of the interests earned by the meter and bill deposits of its customers," said Nasecore president Pete Ongsiapco.

In its complaint, the consumer watchdog group alleged that Meralco had illegally declared as income P660 million that belonged to its customers. The amount represented part of the interest earned by the meter and bill deposits—collectively known as "customers' deposits"—of Meralco's customers estimated to have reached about P21 billion.

Nasecore said the P660 million represented the 4 percent differential interest from the customers' deposits since 1995, however on the deposits was pegged at 6 percent until 1995, when the then Energy Regulatory Board increased the rate to 10 percent.

Meralco classified 6 percent of the interest under customers' deposits, and initially placed 4 percent under its operating reserves account. Later, the 4 percent was also included under customers' deposits.

But in its financial statement as of Dec. 31, 2006, Meralco reclassified the 4 percent as "interest and other income received."

Nasecore said Meralco's action constituted misappropriation of funds.

Reacting to the decision, Meralco said it would either file an appeal with the Makati court or elevate the case to the Court of Appeals.

Meralco legal counsel Siller Lumawag said they only received a copy of the decision yesterday and were still analyzing their options.

But he said Meralco and its lawyers were maintaining the position that they filed the case in the correct venue.

"Even if the SOC is in Makati, to probable cause is required, so our position is that we filed the case in the correct venue," he said. DJ Yap with Abigail L. Ito

Lim sends resignation letter but...

By Norman Bordadora and Allison W. Lopez

SURPRISED BY A TELEVISED ANNOUNCEment by former President Joseph Estrada the other night that he had resigned his post as head of the opposition Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim sent in a rare resignation letter yesterday.

The letter was not necessary. According to Estrada, Lim was removed from the party by the PMP board and was no longer a member of their party.

"He didn't resign. He was removed," Estrada said in a telephone interview.

Lim, who was appointed PMP president by Estrada's last party, chairman only learned he was ousted last Tuesday night when ABS-CBN called him for a reaction to Estrada's initial disclosure that he had resigned.

It appears Lim's removal was partly influenced by Manila City Hall's alleged inhuman treatment of a councilor who was dragged out of a family reunion slaughter-house this week to be taken over by the city.

"The councilor was hostile carried away, it was inhuman," Estrada said.

"It's a disaster for a member of the party to be involved in such an incident. Even the party will be dragged into the fray," he said, adding the party is against rights abuses.

Lim, 78, was visibly saddened but said he probably had his share of detractors who influenced the ex-President.

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ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation in Antipolo

ON ITS 11TH YEAR of service, ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation has opened its 33rd branch right in the heart of the picturesque province of Antipolo City.

It is epoch at the opening on July 18, Antipolo Mayor Victor Sumulong expressed gratitude to and support for the foundation, which will offer a missed's dance program and, with the help of the city government, raise the residents' level of understanding through educational and livelihood training programs.

"The opening of this 40th CSR Bayan Foundation branch is well-timed since we are soon to the process of reinventing the city government. As the same time, we are developing the area in what we call the 'Wild Wild East,'" Sumulong said.

The foundation's new branch is at Room 205-206, Bonz Building, 911, Quezon Street, in front of Hagonoy.

For inquiries and information, call 920-2625 or 0917-5555998, visit the office at 3/F Gaisano Bldg., 827 Sitio, Quezon City e-mail [illegible] or log on to [illegible]

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REMEMBER THE ILAGA The once dreaded vigilante group has reared its ugly head (though partly hidden) again in the Lanao provinces. They announce their reemergence during a press conference somewhere in Cotabato.

GENERAL WALKOUT Brig. Gen. Antonio Supnet walks out of the Iligan session hall during a meeting with Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and other high-ranking officers. After cooling off, he returns to face the boss at hand. He alleged military neglect to protect civilians from MILF atrocities. Evacuees had earlier complained that the military's response had been slow.

It's safe to return home now, military tells evacuees

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TUBOD, LANAO DEL NORTE —Thousands of families forced to flee their homes in the aftermath of Moro rebels' military offensive in Lanao del Norte and Cotabato City could start returning to their homes with the withdrawal of Moro rebels, military officials said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Hilario Arevalo Jr., commander of Task Force Tilak, announced during a dialogue with provincial and town officials here that troops had been clearing coastal areas since the rebel attacks on Monday.

Local executives and military officials gathered at the provincial capitol to meet with Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, who visited these areas to check on the general situation there.

To allay the lingering fear of residents here, Arevalo said military troops had been strategically deployed within the coastal areas to prevent the return of Camp Abubakar, Maigo, Kauswagan, Bacolod, Tubod, Linamon, Buug and Bayugan.

On Monday, thousands of families living in these areas escaped to safer cities nearby after members of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) occupied Kolambugan town, harassed the municipalities of Matigsalug and Bansilod and attacked Kauswagan.

Among those sides that gave refuge in frightened residents were Oroquieta in Misamis Occidental, Iligan and Tubod in Lanao del Norte.

Lingering fears

After lunch yesterday, the second in evacuation centers started to ride out as families began to return to their homes.

Patients were seen carrying their children and wives out of Iligan Medical Center as other evacuees stood guard along the national road.

But Elma Franco, a member of Barangay Poblacion 1 in Maigo, would rather spend another night at the Misamis Oriental Elementary School in Cagayan de Oro, fearing that there were still Moro rebels hiding in her town.

Franco and her three children fled to Oroquieta, embarking a 45-minute boat ride for safety. "It's dangerous to keep watching especially when you have kids," she told the Inquirer.

She was relieved, however, to learn that there were soldiers deployed in her town.

Panic, No. 1 enemy

Upon the request of Lanao del Norte Gov. Khalid Dimaporo, the military also agreed to secure a "gathering" center in each municipality where people who don't find safe at night can be accommodated.

Local executives suggested this plan to Teodoro so that people no longer have to cross the sea to seek refuge in neighboring provinces.

"Panic is one casualties case on any People want to go home but every time they receive a text message about MILF threats, they want to flee again," said Dimaporo.

In Kolambugan, meanwhile, many already trying to carry on with their lives.

Preempt atrocities

Cabral said for mortality to remain in Lanao del Norte, people would have to go back to their homes as soon as possible. "We can only start normalization efforts if they are already back in their homes," she said.

With President Macapagal-Arroyo's directives, the military said it was now set to "neutralize" remaining MILF members responsible for Monday's violence.

"The intention of the President is to prevent a repeat of what happened last Monday so our military commanders are free to take whatever justifiable, proportionate action against the Moro rebels," Teodoro said.

"We leave it to their discretion to do whatever is necessary and according to law to preempt any more atrocities done by these rebels," he continued.

Teodoro also encouraged local executives whose towns suffered the most at the hands of the rebels to help the military gather witnesses and issue affidavits in order to file the appropriate cases against the MILF and its leaders, Commanders Bravo and Omkra Kato.

"But there is still no place in the government for the use of force. One main concern is to protect the people," Teodoro said.

General walks out of Iligan meeting

By Michel P. Ubac
Inquirer Mindanao

ILIGAN CITY—AN ARMY brigade commander walked out on a meeting with Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro yesterday after local officials accused the military of neglecting civilians during Monday's attacks by Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in four towns in Lanao del Norte.

Brig. Gen. Antonio Supnet, head of the 104th Infantry Brigade, left the meeting after hearing comments of Rep. Vicente Belmonte that the civilians felt betrayed when military came late.

Belmonte told the military kept a "wait-and-see attitude." He added that he was "only expressing the sentiments of civilians that they lack trust and confidence in the government."

Supnet denied the allegations, saying that he "cannot accept that the military did nothing to protect Iligan City and Lanao del Norte."

"I was even there in Kauswagan to retrieve the dead bodies of the innocent civilians," he said.

Supnet returned to the meeting 20 minutes after he walked out.

Palace on MOA: No renegotiation, only review

From page A1

stone to the Constitution and enabling law, the use of the terms of national government rather than referring to nation is preeminent as a central governing.

However, Ermita said that the Arroyo administration will still have to await the exact decision on Domingo-Cayetano's manifestation.

"Our position is if the Supreme Court will take action that will lead in the prayer of [Bernandez] which is to allow pursuit of further negotiations, then of course the guidance of the President is let's move forward and reach a peace agreement," Ermita said.

No need to scrap deal

Ermita said that "there was no need to scrap down" the MOA.

He told reporters that he was sticking to Bernandez's line because he did not want to prejudge the high tribunal's final action.

The court had issued a temporary restraining order on the signing of the MOA in Malacañan on Aug. 5 over petitions by local officials in Mindanao that they were not consulted on the plan. The provinces were unconsolidated. It is set to resume oral arguments tomorrow on the MOA.

Because of the court hearing, Malacañang decided to postpone its plan to hold simultaneous special meeting of the Legislative-Executive Committee for Advisory Council to discuss the issues in Mindanao, Ermita said.

Result of legal action

The executive secretary said that Presidential Peace Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., who returned on Tuesday from a mission to Malaysia, had reported to Ms Arroyo that Kuala Lumpur had agreed on the need for the two sides to "again assume and come to a consensus" sorts of references in light of what's happening in the Supreme Court." Malaysia brokered the MOA.

"They understood the developments in the country there it fighting on the ground as a result of the legal actions," Ermita said.

Group consensus

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that the decision to review or remedy the MOA was reached on Tuesday night during a National Security Council meeting in the Palace, the second in a row after the MILF attacks in Lanao del Norte on Monday.

"It's a group consensus of the security chiefs," Gonzalez said. "The public opinion seems to think along that line and we are not insensitive."

"The bottom line is the President wants to save the peace process ... She wants the peace process but she also does not want to give one inch of Philippine territory," he said, referring to the MILF incursions.

'Commissioner' and 'dirty' swap insults at CA probe

From page A1

described the justice to him as "dirty."

At the start of the hearing, Subic-powered statements expressing support from the City Council of Cagayan de Oro, Xavier University and Ateneo Law School student body, and letters from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines' Davao Bukidnon chapter and two persons.

He said the letters had encouraged him to pursue his resolve to cleanse the judiciary.

The panel composed of retired Supreme Court justices is to question Dr Borja on his ties with Mendoza chair Shandi Lopez.

Dr Borja said he knew Lopez in high school but that they subsequently lost touch. He said their friendship was rekindled only in the past seven or eight years and that he saw Lopez in social gatherings.

'Dodrea'

Where the ease involving Mendoza and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) began to bog the headlines, Dr Borja said, he told Lopez that his home Subic, one of the justices who had voted a temporary restraining order in favor of the power utility.

Lopez, however, was indifferent to the information, Dr Borja said during questioning by retired Justice Ramon Cañeja Sr. "I reported him to say 'Talaga Dodrea?' ... Ehut he was! dodrea (no translation)."

In his affidavit, Subic had said a man "endorsing for Mendoza" met with him and offered P10 million for him to allow an other justice to clean the dirt that would rule in the case.

Dr Borja, who subsequently came forward, said he lashed out with Subic but not as a "massive tantrum." He also quoted Subic as claiming to have been offered by the government a Supreme Court seat and money to back off from the case.

Dr Borja further quoted the justice as saying that it would take "50 million" for him to enjoy the purported government offer.

Big boys

At yesterday's hearing, Dr Borja said he did not talk about businessman Romeo Lopez, Shandi Lopez's father, and that the information would be "favorable" to Mendoza.

Dr Borja replied that Lopez did not seem interested in his earlier disclosure that Subic was his friend. "May I add, these people are big boys. I know very well they're capable of defending themselves," he said.

The panel chair, retired Justice Carolina Griño-Aquino, also asked why Dr Borja did not disclose the information about Subic to Lopez. "It may have been the beginning of a deal with [Lopez]," she said.

If he had done that, Dr Borja said, it would have meant he was a fixer.

"I'm a deal-maker, not a fixer," he said, and explained, quoting Aquino's proverb, that a fixer just paid everyone but a deal-maker succeeded with a lot of technicalities.

'Chismis'

Aquino asked whether the P10-million that Subic had purportedly mentioned was the justice's counteroffer.

Dr Borja said it was not because he had not made an offer to Subic.

Aquino also asked if it was Lopez who had suggested that Dr Borja watch bass with Subic, and that businessman replied in the negative.

Dr Borja was further asked why he was so interested in the case that involved Mendoza's efforts to retire a board takeover by the GSIS.

He said his intervention in pleading Subic and suggesting that they meet was to gather (chismis (gossip) about the case, because of his "natural and abiding interest."

"As a businessman, I felt the issue was of monumental importance," he said.

Cañeja reminded him that issue would affect the businessmen considering he was not a Mendoza candidate.

Dr Borja replied: "I'm a free enterprise. I'm appalled at the way the GSIS is going after Mendoza."

'Commissioner'

Subic was the first to question Dr Borja, and the session between the two was close.

The justice asked why Dr Borja was being referred to as a "commissioner," and if he had worked with the government.

Dr Borja said he had never been officially called by that term and asked Subic where the information came from.

Subic said the businessman might be embarrassed if he replied to the question, and said he had heard many people say they know what the latter was like.

Dr Borja retorted: "Many relyes, Justice Subic, muddred dirt formalapet so alun, amanah; Ang chow siyar (You know, Justice Subic, many people also swear in tin and call me, 'He's dirty')."

Subic also asked Dr Borja if he had ever met or sat with women other than their wives.

Dr Borja's lawyer Rafael Antonio objected, saying the question was irrelevant and that his client could invoke the right against self-incrimination.

But Dr Borja went ahead and answered in the negative.

'We liked each other'

Subic questioned Dr Borja on his businesses after the latter said he was a management consultant.

Dr Borja refused to answer, saying he wanted to preserve his clients' privacy.

"Because you do not have any client bragging your services? ... There's a figment of your imagination," Subic said.

"You're wrong," the businessman countered.

He also said he used to meet with Subic about once or twice a year, and that their meetings were congenial.

"Because at that time, we liked each other," Dr Borja said, drawing laughter from the gallery. He added that he still liked Subic but could not speak for the latter.

Cañeja questioned Dr Borja about his ties with the Villanueva, Cruz, Manalo and Aquino law firm, which represented Mendoza.

Dr Borja said he knew Rodolfo Villanueva and that he met with Ernesto Maceda once, on Aug. 4, in the latter's office.

He said Maceda had asked to meet with him to talk about his affidavit against Subic, which was reported in the newspapers.

On Cañeja's questioning, Dr Borja denied that law firm had helped him prepare his affidavit.

Vuquez and GSIS

The panel has decided to look into Ch Presiding Justice Cornelio Vasquez's ties with the GSIS.

Aquino granted the request to subpoena the GSIS human resources head to confirm reports that Vasquez's two daughters and other relatives were employed there.

The request was made by Victoriano Aguirre II, legal counsel of Justice Bienvenido Reyes, who is among those cited in the controversy over rebate CA division should have decided on the Mendoza-GSIS case.

Vasquez had objected to Aguirre's request, saying the information about his relatives was irrelevant to the issue.

He had also answered Aguirre's statement that Reyes was unaware of his relatives in the agency, saying that his two daughters had helped Aguirre and Reyes get their GSIS e-cards.

Said Aquino: "We are granting the request because the panel would like to have as much information as we can get in investigating the alleged improprieties in the Court of Appeals ... That the panel to replenish the chief from the court."

'iamninoy': History made fresh for the young

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT'S HISTORY MADE FRESH for the young.

Opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. may be long dead, but his trademark term-phrases will hopefully inspire young Filipinos to view their country through his eyes.

Beginning today—exactly 25 years after his assassination—Aquino's heroism and his quest for democracy will be told beyond the history books: billboards and, the many second-anniversary buildup to his homecoming on Aug. 21, 1983.

Now, his memory will be synthesized on child-sized by some popular figures in the country's business sector, in television, in the newspapers and on the Internet.

At those are part of the "iamninoy" project, a local initiative launched by the Benigno Aquino Jr. Foundation to inspire a new generation of Filipinos, especially those between the ages of 23 and 30.

The "iamninoy" online/mobile/audio/video/any-body clothes, the memory and sports gear—will bear an image of Aquino's eyes, glasses as the campaign icon.

"The idea is to inspire young Filipinos to look at where we are now and what is it that we need to change in ourselves, so in the process we can change the country," Raphael Lopa, executive director of the foundation, told the Inquirer in an interview.

"It's seeing the country in Ninoy's eyes," Lopa said.

Buying trend

After consulting with the ad agency McCann Erickson in May, the foundation decided to ride the buying trend of the young Filipino of today.

"Young people want to buy things [and] not thought that if they buy a Ninoy shirt, they may be inspired to discover ownership of his values and beliefs, his fight for freedom and justice," Lopa said.

But the merchandise, he pointed out, would be just an entry point to making Aquino familiar to Filipinos now young or removed by the hustle and daze inflicted over the course of Philippine history.

On Aug. 21, 1983, Aquino, a former senator and opposition leader during Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship, was shot and killed at the then Manila International Airport on his return from self-exile in the United States.

The framed-up assassin, identified as Rolando Galman, was killed by soldiers acting on Aquino's escort on his homecoming. His disciples of a non-party township like Marcos dictatorship hopes (Ninoy an Page A1.)

'A Ninoy in us'

According to Lopa, the project seeks to "bring Ninoy in a new 21st century to awaken the young sense of history and identity, and research about him is loosely or the link."

The merchandise is one way of motivating young Filipinos to discover or rekindle their desire to change the country in their own small ways, Lopa said, adding:

"The young people today want to do something for the country but they just don't know exactly what it is or how. We want them to realize that there is a Ninoy in each one of us."

Aquino was aware of the daily grind that confronted him, yet still decided to return to the Philippines.

He had been warned that he would be assassinated or dropped back in jail, but his answer was: "If it's my fate to die by an assassin's bullet, so be it. But I cannot be penalized by tyrannies, or fear of assassination, and therefore stay in the country..."

And Lopa: "With this campaign, we want the young people to see the country and [feel] patriotism and create a full-capacity way of having to make a very important choice, like what Ninoy did. How one eventually changed the destiny of one country."

Bono, Armstrong

The "iamninoy" project was inspired by rock star and activist Bono, who launched "Project Red" in 2006 to fight HIV and AIDS in Africa, and bicycle racer Lance Armstrong for his "Livestrong" campaign to help people with cancer live healthy lives.

The two were partnered with several companies to offer products under their respective campaigns to raise funds for their causes.

Less than 10 people in plot; 5 core, 5 others 'in the know'

To newspage A-1

questions. He knew Rolando Abadilla, chief of the Metropolitan Command (Metrocom), headquarters and Security Group of the Jose Philippine Constabulary (now the Philippine National Police). They had coordinated with each other on several operations. They understood the culture of their job. An officer does not cheer up to an army platoon. They have been hiding there in their kind of work, there were no misunderstanding.

The soldier in civilian attire, who monitored Aquino's arrival, was not the only one who saw Abadilla on the tarmac. Aviation Security Command (Avsecom) troopers saw him. Jose Ramos-Jose, an airlines customer-service engineer, was notified before the Agrava Board (the group that first investigated the assassination of Aquino) that he saw Abadilla talking to a man who fit Galman's description.

Another maintenance crew member, Virgilio Maderazo, said he heard Abadilla order the Marcos regime detained close Aquino.

Abadilla's name also surfaced during the initial investigation conducted by the Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) among the prosecution personnel. Some other Aquino were shot. The soldiers pointed to Abadilla as their "waiting officer" in a rundown counter on airport security. They were on waiting, in fact, when they were deployed to receive Aquino's homecoming.

Uncontracted list

The list of information was deemed unimportant by CIS investigators who were looking for witnesses and were in the process of rounding down more than 130 airline passengers and airport workers who were in the vicinity of the crime scene.

But the Sandiganbayan took note of this in its decision in September 1998, saying it was an "unwarranted lapse" that Abadilla and Galman were even talking to each other before gunshots rang out. The Sandiganbayan also linked Abadilla to the bullet and Wenaro .357 magnum pistol found nearer away from the body of Galman. The gun was traced to a retired Metrocom officer who claimed the weapon had been stolen from his car, allegedly by Abadilla's aides.

"The presence of Colonel Abadilla on the tarmac of the Manila International Airport (MIA) just before the assassination of Senator Aquino and his long suspicious conferences with Rolando Galman at the same time the air-up between the military and this guy," the court said.

It was a ground for probable cause, yet Abadilla was never included by the Agrava Board, which conducted the preliminary investigation.

Core group

Abadilla, or "Kabit," was just one of less than 10 people who were "in on" the plot.

Based on the level of involvement, five people in the group were considered "core," while the rest were "in the know."

Aquino was in prison for more than seven months before he came home in 1980. The plane was handled by military and civilian "security" who saw Aquino's communists in a politician's clothing and a threat to the side of Ferdinand Marcos and his self-appointed successor.

The ground plan was to "neutralize" Aquino along terrain vulnerable points. The opportune time came on Aug. 21, 1983.

Like a movie trap

It was a plot with bold objectives and intended for massive impact, but carried out by a select group using a limited, armed economic power.

Like a "movie trap" left waiting for one unsuspecting moment, the plot had been there waiting for Aquino to come home. One did not expect when; they knew it would happen.

Abadilla was on the tarmac to ensure that the "movie trap" worked as intended, while his cohorts, Col. Romeo Orbon, deputy commander of the Avsecom, and retired PC Brig. Gen. Romeo Custan, were at the Carbungco and, on the "waiting game," to give final instructions to Galman and his escort. Orbon's trusted men, like Sergeant Pablo Obinalan.

Just another hit

With the group at Carbungco was Rolando Galman, a militiaman from Nueva Ecija whose daughter was married to Custan's son. Aside from being Custan's father-in-law, Galman—who could be used to take advantage of knowing Galman personally. He had once hired Galman as a bodyguard.

That explains why Custan had such a presence when a military team fetched Galman from his house in San Miguel, Bulacan, on Aug. 17, 1983. His presence assured Galman it was just another hit.

Inside's entourage

A gun-for-hire, Galman was supplied with a motive to kill Aquino—money. Besides, killing the assassin would be a justifiable act of the soldiers who were assigned to escort Aquino. Getting a soldier to shoot Aquino "for love of country" was doomed. Sufficiently

Where are they now?

ARACELIA T. DE "RISSO-BADILLES" Airport officer with a long record of Marcos-regime violations, was effective as assistant to Bureau City in June, 1986. Abadilla was known to report directly to Marcos and for initiating political prosecutions.

Galman, a native of Cagayan province, died from a finger-length in 1983. He entered the early 1980s as chief of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom). He was in national prominence in Tarlac's provincial commander in 1987. The year Cojuangco became Tarlac governor, and again during the election count in 1988, when Cojuangco was declared governor by one vote. He was killed in the first district. When Gates retired, he joined Cojuangco's business empire as consultant for security.

Orbon, an Ilocano from La Union and a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1966, was sent to Manila for the funeral of his benefactor, General Ver, in 1988.

Sent for a five-day visit, Orbon's then-not-born sons or heard from for his friends and

Obinalan was killed by MPDG officers following the People Power in Pinatubo in February 1986.

Imelda turned 79 years old last month, beautiful and regal as ever. She ran for president in 1992, and had threatened to run for Manila mayor some years ago. In her quiet time, she designs jewelry, shoes and bags that express "Filipino aesthetics." She has not stopped complaining that her family is a victim of "persecution."

Cojuangco is still at the helm of a business empire that includes San Miguel Corp.

Three kinds of followers

Marcos had three kinds of followers. First, those who did not care for their orders. Second, those who waited for direct orders. Third, those who received orders through the chain of command, and would accomplish the goals according to their discretion.

The leadership style of Gen. Fabian C. Ver was based on his "closeness" to Marcos and "confidence." Orderers was often conspicuous. Ver "interpreted" some act inside if the officer had a wrong barber.

Ver was a guerrilla who enlisted as a third lieutenant in 1940. His early years were spent mainly doing police work—in ending police chief of Malabon, as warden of the Bilibid provincial jail, chief of investigation at the CIS, and inspector at the Constabulary School.

Childhood friend

Ver's career path changed when his childhood friend, Marcos, was elected President in 1965. Marcos gave him, on Jan. 31, 1967, in Manila. Bruce Marks, Jan. 1 the house) away from where Ver was born, on Jan. 20, 1920.

The newly elected President assigned Ver, then a captain, to head the Presidential Security Unit. In December 1965, he promoted Ver to the rank of senior Philippine Army general. Marcos gave Ver his first star. On Aug. 15, 1981, Ver was named chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Imelda faction

Imelda was never considered a leader in the culture of her husband.

In fact, in Metrocarting, she was seen mostly as head of the faction that included her brothers, Benjamin and Alfredo, her brother-in-law Brig. Gen. Eliseo Rio, the Blue Ladies, and her singing partners, Army chief Lt. Gen. Josephus Ramas.

Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.'s "closeness" to Marcos and his proximity to the military made him a "force" to reckon with. But Cojuangco had the culture of the

To newspage A-1

An era silenced.

There suddenly was an awesome intimation of redemption, the white figure of Ninoy cut a shadow on crushing Gandhi's "willing sacrifice of the innocent."

As Ninoy lay there dying, as did the Marcos dictatorship begin to breathe its last. When he died, the nation stirred as but from 20 years of fear and loathing. We poured out into streets, ran excited and regal. We were unstoppable until we dismantled the Marcos dictatorship at Edsa three years after Ninoy's martyrdom. We had discovered the power of a people who would no longer allow themselves to be enslaved.

The whole world took note. We discovered the power of a people who would no longer be enslaved. We inspired peoples everywhere to stop living in fear. We taught them how to throw off their yoke without firing a single shot.

But there's one astonishing it. The road to People Power on Edsa began with the homecoming of a man on Aug. 21, 1983.

Tarlac exile. He would give only if asked. When meeting with business officials, his first question was: How much do you need? He came to his cousin-in-law, Aquino, who never asked but anticipated what the hearings needed.)

Snake pit

What the oldest Marcos daughter, Imee, said of Malacañang as a "snake pit" was true. There was enmity around her in-chief, and there were sub-enmities around Imelda, around Ver and even around Danding.

The competition now got ugly when Marcos fell ill, with Imelda and her brothers getting the upper hand. The stakes got worse when it became evident that Aquino, another potential, if not formidable rival, was coming home.

'Beyond Conspiracy': Someone got away with murder

To newspage A-1

tion of what the state apparatus can launch round for, and why he gave up his life.

That's a gift for Ninoy but a tragedy for the youth, because it deprives them of the basic example they need to energize and transform their own lives.

Happily the Foundation for Worldwide People Power has produced the latest documentary "Beyond Conspiracy" (5 stars) after the Aquino Assassination," which we previewed last Monday at the Shangri-la Fortune Theater.

Clueless youth

The hand-holding and lecture-conducive, authority by Sydney Tangco, directed by Butch Dalisay and narrated by Tina Monzon Palma, was previewed by an SRO crowd—a good indication that it will do similarly well when it's shown at 10:30 p.m. on Aug. 24 on Channel 2 in the general TV audience. Make sure you watch it.

Even more importantly, get your children and the other young people you know to also view the documentary because it'll go a long way in filling in the blanks in their knowledge of and appreciation for the sufferings and feats of Ninoy's sacrifice.

Truth to tell, the production goes into so much detail in recalling the events that prompted Ninoy's death that it's more a study primer for the uninitiated than for the already knowledgeable, who may find its first half rather basic. But, they should stay the course, because the need to inform the relatively clueless youth is the documentary's most important task.

Besides, the program's second half offers even the initiated an absorbing viewing experience, because it serves as in the investigations of Ninoy's assassination, sifts through the evidence pointing to the assassination's most likely mastermind(s), and makes the viewer roughly sense convincingly to life with a sensationist greatly enhanced by the use of computer animation.

Unassailable truth

Eyewitness accounts also bolster the production with the force and clarity of unassailable truth.

The program consistently gets bogged down in unnecessary detail, but viewers who keep watching should be rewarded with galvanizing insight that will go a long way in making Ninoy Aquino a more vivifying presence and example in their lives.

After previewing "Beyond Conspiracy," we were heartened by its incisive retelling of Ninoy's heroic story, which should inspire young viewers to be similarly selfless in their thoughts and actions.

In terms of dramatic impact, however, the documentary's most telling moments were the ballistic "camera" tattoo events after media people and their cameras lost sight of Ninoy as he was hustled out of the plane that had brought him back to the Philippines.

Reenactment

The production's logical use of computer-generated imagery and dramatized reenactments made this dramatic part of the documentary particularly effective.

In general, we're against the use of reenactments in news and public affairs programs; however they tend to be too "tamed," and thus not melodramatic in effect.

In "Beyond Conspiracy," however, the reenactments are focused and carefully executed, with the actors' participation limited to vividly fitting the events being retelled, with minimal display of potentially distracting, upstaging and overdrive emotion.

In addition, the stark computer-

images further distanced the emotive impact of the presentation, constantly reminding viewers that they were watching, not a melodrama, but a reinvestigation of events of grave national significance and import.

Four eyewitnesses

This newest section's most important contribution was its dramatized revelation that the key assassination on Ninoy was done in the head was seen by four eyewitnesses from different vantage points on the plane and on the tarmac.

This belied the general impression that nobody witnessed that exact moment, hence the possibility that Rolando Galman had acted in the first eyewitnesses' testimony—up—as closely simulated in the documentary—proves that Galman was a hit guy, and that one of the arresting officers had in fact pulled the trigger.

Not only is this section worse the special's most dramatic and evocative section, but it also enables "Beyond Conspiracy" to take its reinvestigation to a higher, more critical level, to an interpretation than all the evidence in hand of the identity of the Aquino assassination's master mind(s).

Not in vain

A number of probable suspects and their subsequent scenarios are analyzed, and the conclusion the reinvestigation arrives at is a chilling reminder of the continuing tragedy of justice still denied a nation cripplingly in need of it.

Twenty-five years after the fact, in fact, justice may seem to be more elusive than ever for Ninoy Aquino. But, with remembrances like "Beyond Conspiracy" casting a bright light to reveal the truth to new generations of Filipinos, Ninoy's supreme sacrifice shall not have been in vain.

iCame. iSaw. iC

The birth of a bold new Hyundai cometh w

Bestselling mini hatch of best-in-class intelligence and inspiration. These are the cars that usher in the birth of a bold new Hyundai—reaffirming its position as a determined challenger in the global automotive arena. Get ready to witness Hyundai's remarkable evolution, as represented by cutting-edge cars that redefine driving experience to ergonomically new heights. Unravel the exceptional splendor and finesse of the i Series, i10 and i20.

Meet the Cars of the Year

Reviewed by Hyundai Motor India in October 2007, the i10 has already won a total of five Car of the Year Awards (COTY) in India—collect a span of only four months since its launch. Check out this long list of i10's accolades and recognitions:

- Business Standard Motoring, December 29, 2007
  - Car of the Year 2008
- ZIGWheels.com, January 8, 2008
  - Car of the Year 2008
  - Best Compact Car 2008
- NDTV Car bikes, January 10, 2008
  - Car of the Year 2008
  - Small Car of the Year 2008
- Overdrive, January 11, 2008
  - Car of the Year 2008
  - Owner's Choice award
- ICOTY (India Car of the Year), February, 2008
  - Car of the Year 2008

And today is just the beginning. With the i10's award-winning status, the Philippine auto industry will surely rise to her another rousing Hyundai challenger that's sure to stir up competition.

Hyundai's i20 is another success story. Making waves in the European market and the Asia-Pacific region, the i20 rocked the industry when it emerged as Australia's Car of the Year at the 2007 CARSguide Car of the Year Awards—a historic first that a Korean-made car dominated the Land Down Under. Not only that, the i20 was also voted CARSguide Small Car of the Year in Australia, emphasizing the hatchback's remarkable fuel-efficiency and eco-friendly performance.

As if these awards were not enough, the i20 got its second Car of the Year award the time, in Spain. And for the first time, yet again, an Asian car brand made it as Car of the Year, and for the first time ever, a brand was by a huge gap over its competitors. Hyundai's revised finds resulting from the global market's overwhelming appreciation of the i20 not only represent milestones in Hyundai's 40-year heritage, but also its relentless quest to change the [illegible] of automotive.

More Than Meets the I

Stylish, sleek, and engineered to [illegible] motorists—the i Generation. Hyundai [illegible] tunes and conveniences the eye can [illegible] explored to meet the existing demand [illegible] fuel-efficiency.

Performing as lively as it looks for its [illegible] with its impressive drivability and [illegible] gasoline engine, the i10 delivers more [illegible] torque of 10.1 kg-m at 3500 rpm [illegible] gas-drive. Not only is the i10's engine remarkably economical and "green" [illegible] travel system that helps burn fuel efficiently and the environment with lower [illegible] standing 5-speed manual gearbox or [illegible] the i10 furthers its pursuit's efficiency [illegible] design that minimizes transmission [illegible] speed-ratio, for more precise, safer and

TYPE OF TEST	CHECK ITEMS	i10
		1.1 DOHC Dual-VVT
CONDITION 1 (Long drive)	Distance Traveled	83.0 kms
	Fuel Added	5.65 L
	Time Duration	1hr. 40mins.
	FUEL CONSUMPTION	17.71 KM/L
CONDITION 2 (City Drive)	Distance Traveled	52.3 kms
	Fuel Added	5.45 L
	Time Duration	2hrs. 10mins.
	FUEL CONSUMPTION	9.62 KM/L

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OPINION

Ninoy, home at last

WHY DID NINOY AQUINO RETURN HOME that fate-defining day 25 years ago? The threats in the life of the leader of the Marcos opposition were as numerous as they were credible. Even the risks outlined for him by one half of the conjugal dictatorship, Imelda Marcos, while they inevitably carried a whiff of Ineldific exaggeration, were in the end plausible and sobering. Too, under Marcos law, Aquino was facing a death sentence; to return to the Philippines after three years in exile was not only to accept the guile of corrupt-ridden courtrooms but also to dare the dictators controlling the judicial bind.

EDITORIAL

Exile is emasculating; it inevitably displaced political activists with glimpses of power, intimations of influence, at the very time it weighs them down with an air of impotence. But however peripheral an exile's life can be, it is still to be preferred (or at least many of us would choose it to the normal course of things) to a life in prison. If Aquino had survived any assassination attempts or enjoyed even a temporary relief from the death sentence a military tribunal imposed on him, he would still have ended up in jail—closer to the people he wanted to serve, but even more at the mercy of the people he opposed.

There was talk, even then that, despite all he had gone through (including seven years and seven months in Marcos' prisons before being allowed to seek medical treatment in the United States), he was the stubborn dictator's chosen successor. In this view, Aquino was coming home as part of a political arrangement. This is a scenario conspiracy theorists can readily embrace, but in fact there is nothing there, nothing to put one's arms around. Aquino may or may not have figured in some scenario instilling by ambitious political superiors, but he was never, he could never have been, Marcos preferred successor. Aquino had grown too much in political maturity had been too thoroughly purged by a difficult decade of imprisonment and exile, to even consider accepting a deal that would have contravened the character.

There was talk, too, that Aquino was really nothing more than a traditional politician with an outsized lust for power, and that, sensing Marcos' imminent death, he had wanted to come home to place a claim on the succession. This was an image that readers of Marcos' crony press could readily visualize; they had been fed a steady diet of unflattering stories about a young and no-the-matter politician, surrounded by a harridan of bodyguards and an overwhelming sense of elite entitlement. But in fact the crony press did not acknowledge, and indeed failed to recognize, that Aquino was a radically changed man because of what Marcos and his regime had done to him. Aquino's years in the Marcos gulag had purged him of ambition and nutrition.

In other words, Ninoy Aquino's decision to come home at a perilous time in the country's history, and at great personal risk, could only have happened because he had been imprisoned and he had been exiled.

We are all familiar with what is perhaps Aquino's most famous utterance, that the Filipino is worth dying for. This statement, with Good Friday overtones all over it, resonates with many of us: it captures the essence of a very Filipino sense of martyrdom.

But the statement we should commit to memory explains why dying for someone is worth making in the first place. Being a willing victim (like, say, returning to either a quick death or the slow assassination that is imprisonment) unlocks the most powerful source of resistance to tyranny. According to Gandhi, Aquino explained, in the arrival statement he never read, this latter source, the wellspring of liberty, is the willing sacrifice of the innocent.

Why, then, did he return home? Because as a willing victim he knew he had to. The video footage of his arrival shows Aquino looking concerned when soldiers entered the plane to fetch him. At that moment, he must have known (it shows on his face), that he had in fact chosen death. But at least he was back home, at last.

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Troubling numbers

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"DEATH OR DISTANCE," WRITES TOBIAS, CAMS, is a world dictated by the cellphone, Internet and jet planes. These also globalized crime. 10 Filipinas were trafficked in *Glee d'Ivoire* in Africa, says the US State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report." Chinese girls were shipped to Afghan brothels, and Koreans kidnapped to Mexican family harvest.

"Trafficking" is moving people, either by persuasion or lies, to use them for forced labor. All countries agree this practice is vile, "even where links exist between officialdom, police and shady types who trade in flesh," the document notes.

Thus, 17 countries ratified the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking. A 291 page tool and the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act stiffened curbs. In 2003, the Philippines approved a complimentary trafficking law.

Nonetheless, "a greater variety of nationalities crop up as victims" as found Institute fellows from the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

"A small number of women are occasionally trafficked from China, South Korea and Russia to the Philippines," the report notes. "But victims came from Southeast Asia, Europe and North America (making) transit."

Into overall, the Philippines remains a 'source-y of origin." About 3,000 plus Filipino migrants daily. And some find themselves trapped in brothels. Many close cousins feared labor conditions.

At low-stage "tailored" operations flow from indigent communities in the Visayas and Mindanao, women and children are funneled into Cebu, Manila and other cities. Some end up in "entertainment" clubs; others become almost workers in business factories.

The second stage links in when Filipinos are peddled abroad as sex workers. They are shipped "primarily to Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, and countries in the Middle East and Western Europe."

Traffickers resell hotel and visa transportation to transfer victims from inland provinces to major cities," the report found. "A growing trend is the use of budget airline carriers to transport victims out of the country. Traffickers used fake travel documents, falsified permits and altered birth certificates."

Traffickers often confiscate passports, identity cards and airline tickets to control a victim. Without these documents, migrants are reduced to deportation. "This is legal coercion." US federal law now makes it illegal to seize documents to force others to work, the report notes. "Foreign governments are encouraged to criminalize trafficking of travel documents."

People-trafficking and people-smuggling often overlap, says the analysis. "Drawing lines is it Dark Place." That is "an uncomfortable but almost unavoidable part of social policy when those that adjoin rich countries with a demand for labor."

Burmese and Cambodians have been found trafficked by promises of high pay on fishing boats in Thailand and the Andaman Sea. They ended up aboard ships. The bodies of some victims were "dumped as container orders." The US report says. "For environments are more conducive to exploitation than the high seas."

"A significant number of Filipinos work under conditions of involuntary servitude." Cases cropped up in Bahrain, Canada, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Palau, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

Trafficking through brokered marriages has surged. Brides from Vietnam, Cambodia to Mongolia are picked "through the Internet in the method of 'catalog brides.'" The report adds. Some Americans were prosecuted by false "Vietnamese husbands." Over 20,000 Vietnamese women married to Taiwan through marriage brokers. International marriages in South Korea now count at 12,111.

"An international marriage market is booming," studies by Hitoshi Nishimura, Mizie Ramos and Hitoshi Ogura revealed. In 2006, there were 29,000 marriages in foreigners registered, up from 25,108 the previous year. "[Many] Filipina brides head for Taiwan, South Korea and Japan."

"The surge in marriages of convenience...combines ethnic whose good escapes Filipinas in play dice with their foreign business hosts," Viewpoint Services, 12/20/97) noted. "Towards some measure of decent life, they must get a visa (either wedding ring."

Most 512 nations are ranked in "Tier 1" in the US report. "Tier 2" is for countries that outline comply or try hard enough. But Somali trafficking.

The Philippines is weighed into "Tier 2." This ranking means that Manila is "making significant efforts to meet minimum standards for elimination of trafficking." But it still falls short.

"The onus for prosecuting workers falls on source governments," the report says. If the Philippines is to slumber out of Tier 2, it must go beyond providing 42 shelters, 46 labor attaches, cooperating with church and civil society groups, etc. "Instead, it should put spine in flab by efforts to arrest traffickers."

Only two in Cebu and Manila in the latest were convicted under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act. There has not been a single conviction in 130 forced labor cases reported.

Local politicians grant permits to sex dens. Cops moonlight as bar operators. Trafficked cases often find little help from the government, so they are trafficked again by organized syndicates.

"Widespread corruption at all levels of the government permit many organized crime groups, including traffickers, to conduct their illegal activities," the US report bluntly says. "Hence, the number of convictions is troubling."

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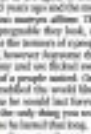
End of the road



THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE WAS SOMETHING ALMOST HEROIC dignified about the meeting of Mayor's day, which is today, to last Monday. Which is that something happened last Monday to drive home to us again the significance of Ninoy's death. Last Monday, Ferrer Mankarial as signed after having ruled Oblation with an iron fist for nine years.

What made it possible, it can say, parallel to Marcos' future, was the assassination of Benazir Bhutto shortly after Christmas last year. Benazir was hosting an election rally when a suicide bomber lost his himself at her car killing her and 20 others. The killing was swiftly claimed by a group with ties to al-Qaida, but suspicions arose Musharraf having a hand in it were never quelled. In fact the most motive, if not the most insane and opportunity.

Like Ninoy, Bhutto had been in exile for some time—eight years in Dubai and London—and she came home to challenge dictatorial rule. Musharraf had seized the reins of government in a coup in 1999 and had since held on to it, tightening his grip thereafter depending on political assistance and/or safety. Like Marcos, Musharraf was an AFP. But he was America's SOB. He had been a dependable ally in the fight against terrorism, pretty much doing everything the American told in exchange for their support. Like Ninoy, Bhutto knew the links she was risking coming home, expressing her fears as CNN at the time. She knew the gamble she took. Not the "lost" to question actually to be good reason. She lost her life, but she gained a country.

Like Cory, Bhutto's family had her party, the Pakistan People's Party, against Musharraf in elections in February this year. Unlike Cory, who went only in the hours of her countrymen, if not in the official electronically—the party remained by the Bhutto's widower—the PPP won the win, thoroughly deflating Musharraf's party. Like Marcos, who faced a political uprising shortly after the snap elections, Musharraf faced a political uprising shortly after the regular elections. The winning coalition was threatening to impeach him.

Alone, isolated, and an iron corset rattling the gates of the Palace, Marcos fled. Alone, isolated, and an iron corset threatening to rattle the gates of his palace, Musharraf resigned.

The spectacle reminds us yet again of something Winston Churchill said: "Democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." Democracy, however imperfectible they look, are brittle and easy to make the instincts of cynicism outraged. That system, however dysfunctional they seem, are small and poor and are divided every day by countless wounds of a popular kind. But for one, democracy enabled the world like a colossus and looked like he would last forever. Today he is gone, and the only thing you want to know he lasted is name he lasted that long.

Which brings us from the past to the present. Ironic, the parallels between Marcos' time and Musharraf's time to the parallels between Musharraf's time and GMA's time. Will the same thing happen to her? Can the same thing happen to her?

Well, the same parallels are there, but they are not seen. The question is how to make them visible.

The regime has lasted enough from Marcos to outlive the landmark from creating a martyr. Though I wouldn't discount that possibility as it becomes more desperate. We do have martyrs underway in the political activities and journalists who have been sent to the other life over the last few years, not the least of them Jesus Burgos, who has become the face for them. But, alas, the country has not risen to embrace them as we.

Just as we'll, like Musharraf and Marcos, GMA has raised power. That was not in 2005, though that is what the Trop camp asserts to this day; that was in 2004, which most Filipinos know to this day. Except that she did so by ballot and not by bullet. Which is really the most insidious and worrying. There are limits to seizing power by bullet, there are no limits to seizing (or maintaining) power by ballot. The latter can be done again and again. And can include gluttonous and reckless acts, such as one Harper charge.

And that is the worst aspect of all, which is that there is now, in Mabini or before, we have to use force to take that has moved in sight. The Palmont coalition's sense of urgency in having Musharraf to resign came from the knowledge that sometime when his control power and refused to keep it by various means would not give it up so easily or willingly. Waiting for a new prime minister to replace him was needed, turning as it did now plays to thwart a changeover. When the Philippine opposition or the citizens themselves will get that sense of urgency, I don't know. Committing suicide is this country's favorite pastime.

Who knows? Maybe the judgment of history on Musharraf, as articulated by some of Pakistan's officials, may help. From Pakistan's Information Minister Mosh Sahtaoui: "The pressure on Musharraf was mounting for him to step down as he was seen as standing in the way of any credible transition to democracy—and today we saw him reading out his own epitaph on his missile and lack of governance. He tried to justify party-made rules for bad times, but I think as the end of the day this was why only option, because the space for him to remain president had shrunk so much that it had become impossible to survive."

From Nejid Hasan, Pakistan's ambassador to England: "He damaged Pakistan a lot. He damaged but he put Pakistan back on the map of the world... Don't for face is that Pakistan, during his time, came to be known as an epicenter of international terrorism. The general perception was that he was part of the problem, not the subject of the problem."

Sounds a lot like Marcos. Sounds a lot like Gloria.

Or do we need another Ninoy to make us see that?

Peace process must continue

THE SELF RAMPAGE IN THREE MINDANAO provinces left scores killed, including a lieutenant colonel from PMA class '93, dozens wounded and hundreds of civilians fleeing. The MILF enclave have-shown little concern for lives, even the lives of those who share their Muslim faith. Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, speaking in a recent interview that before clearing out of the occupied villages, the MILF rebels under Commander Ameril Umbra Kato installed improvised explosive devices in some houses. (Talk of the 4,000 rebels who have gone back to their homes are Muslims.)

* * *

The nation is understandably appalled by the atrocities and the MILF central committee's abdication of control and arrest of field commanders. What then is the point of negotiating with the central committee if it has no control over them? Significantly, Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera has asked the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional the government's agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD). She says that recent developments have turned a "thorough review" of this peace instrument. At this point in time, the 23-year old peace process with the MILF is jeopardized, especially as because many officials in government, including Congress, have come out with hawkish statements. The warning of Sen. Edgardo Angara that the MOA-AD could have dried that this could just be the beginning of the escalation of the Mindanao conflict weighs in more heavily in favor of preparing for war rather than continuing the peace process.

* * *

The MILF successors have encouraged hawks like deposed President Joseph Estrada to advocate to "all-out war against the MILF" similar to what he waged during his brief tenure in office. "All-out war" makes for good sound bites, but in reality the consequences are unthinkable: experience in the recent statements of AFP Chief of Staff Alexander Yano, said pressures from everywhere to step up the AFP's counter-offensive. Needless, the AFP feels that its hands are tied by the process now be-

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ing so flagrantly violated by the MILF. Despite the bombing of the war drums, however, Secretary Teodoro refuses to accuse the MILF of "insincerity". He has stressed that government is not closing its doors to a dialogue, stressing that options will force the MILF to fight, he said. "I might add – to fight even more than they are doing now."

Teodoro, a Harvard-trained lawyer, must have studied the history of the Mindanao conflict and the readers that even if the AFP and the MILF were to fight to the finish, the president won't go away. For it's not unlike a place where, think, it can all but could still quote new outrages that could prove big. The ultimate solution is to go to the root of the conflict, which is much on perennial issues like ancestral domain, lack of education, and the socio-political opportunities and the corruption of Muslim leaders (which keeps the region perpetually poor). It will never want for radicals and demagogues ready to exploit these woes if left unaddressed. The government is in the right direction in demanding that the MILF remind committed to peace and to law enforcers the commanders who led the recent raids; but there are enough peace lovers in society who also demand that the peace process continue. Fortunately, history has many examples of how peace was won despite the torrents and bloody road the process had to take.

* * *

Today marks the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. Fittingly, the Ateneo President's Institute, an inaugural non-academic program agencies such as the National Commission on Culture & the Arts (NCCA) under chair Dr. Felipe Lobrador, has drawn up a slew of activities. See the issue is the honoring by Metro Manila

Meeting Maxene

I CALL HER MAXENE, ALTHOUGH I DOUBTED IF THAT'S her name from the beginning. She looks like Maxene to me, so I named her Maxene.

I rarely see her on Sundays—no, not every Sunday, but at least one Sunday a month. She probably can't even worry about our Sunday rendezvous, to the letters from a lot more often than she makes them. When she cannot make it, I don't blame her at all. I just easily and self-assured that's having the time of her life somewhere else. She deserves it, I guess. She's been a really good girl, she's been a adorable little girl.

I first saw Maxene about 18 months ago on a Sunday afternoon. I was sitting near the side entrance of the church where she resided in her mother's arms, pressed by me while her father led them to a pew near where I was seated. The Mass was about to start when I had my first glimpse of her. She was wearing a pink little dress with a matching pink headpiece that rested on the low strands of hair she had. She wasn't wearing any shoes, but her socks had lacey motifs of pink interwoven on them.

It was December then, so the air was cool. I thought it was the chill that turned her cheeks red and rosy, but the seasons came and went and her cheeks remained just as lovely. Her big round eyes glistened, especially when she heard the piano play its cues to start the Mass.

Some months later, she still couldn't speak more than two words, but she was already singing at the top of her lungs. Of course, she was out tune, but that didn't make her sound less angelic. The first time I heard her sing, I thought she was one of the christmas. And she might as well be, it was easy for me to grow fond of her.

From that Sunday when I first saw her, I made it a point to take a seat in the same pew as hers in the hope of seeing her again. For the first few Sundays that followed, she and her parents would come to hear Mass and sit around the same area, so it became part of my routines to see her. Sometimes, they would take a seat behind me, and sometimes a little too far from me so that I had to crane my neck to catch her smile. When her mom, her dad or the grandparents had to look at my direction, I would make funny faces and she would laugh. I was not quite sure if she was actually laughing at me because there were moments in between prayers, when everyone was silent and she would just crack up for no reason at all. She would giggle and her two barely visible front teeth would show.

After a few more Sundays like this, her two front teeth became four. Then, she had seven. I was seeing her grow up before my eyes.

Many more afternoons passed, and little by little she continued to bloom. The smaller her dad used to push soon disappeared, a new set of coloring books and crayons came with them instead.

When the Mass begins, she would pull out her books and start to paint the chicks yellow, the apples red, and the leaves green. She used to color outside the dotted patterns but she's now gotten a lot better. Now, she would ask, in her cute little voice, which colors she should use. She still confuses blue green with green, but who doesn't?

Her hair is longer now, so aside from the hairpins, she has started using headbands depending on what she wears. She still wears trendy pink, but I bet anything trendy look good on her. I remember one Sunday before the Holy Week when she wore a blue sleeveless dress as a witch, but because she was so pretty she looked like a fairy.

She sings to me now, though she still babbles the words sometimes. She no longer wants to sit on her mom's lap, and she sits sandwiched between her parents. She still doesn't follow the rest when people are asked to shake hands with those who are their peace. When she extends her hands after the Our Father, she extends them to me. When she extends her hands after the Our Father, she extends them to me. She turns around and reaches out to me. I don't know how to react. I usually just smile back at her, but I wonder if I should do more than that.

Maxene was even more angelic up close. She looked at me and gave me the cutest smile. I smiled back and said hello. I asked what her name was, but she just gave me another smile and went back to her mom, who answered for her, "I am Isabella."

I started chatting with them and found out that it was actually Isabella's second birthday. I greeted her a happy birthday and she shyly responded, "Thank you." It was only when the choir began singing the processional song that my first conversation with little Maxene, or rather Isabella, and her parents ended.

As the Mass progressed, she still did what she normally does: she played her books and threw endless questions at her parents. Then, after a successful attempt at kneeling and standing in one row with the rest of us, she stood her feet to recite the Lord's Prayer.

A few moments later, I witnessed her do something she had never done before. During the peace offering, she walked around the pews to shake hands with those who are a sign of peace. I took her hand and told her, "Peace be with you." She smiled once again and returned to her seat, and her parents kissed her for the gesture she gave me.

I've exchanged peace offerings with strangers before, but I've never felt as peaceful as I did last Sunday after Maxene extended to me her prayer for peace. And I rather stand why the peace she gave me felt very special. Maxene (yes, I still call her that) was never a stranger to me.

Homer G. Mabasa, 28, is an economic statistician at the Department of Agrarian Reform Regional Office in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Young Blood

Homer G. Mabasa

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the teens/pre-college and below. —Ed.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Unpublished or YoungBlood should not have been previously published.

Kasilag: 'Making a difference in music'

I WAS IN BAGUIO CITY LAST WEEK FOR THE 20th opening of the Heritage Museum of the Philippine Center of Indigenous People's Education and to attend the opening of the 22nd National Conference of Independent Regular Higher Education in the Philippines. (I will write a feature story about the events in another section.)

While the members of the University of South-eastern Philippines' Festival Singers Theatre Collective, gloriously clad in their ethnic attire, were playing genuine ethnic sounds, I thought of Kasilag. Lucrecia Reyes Kasilag, the "Grand Dame" of Philippine music, finally called Tita Cing by many personal acquaintances, like me, would have been 90 on Aug. 11.

Kasilag composed the Philippine national hymn that we sang from one's school is always special. Kasilag received the Pro Ecclesia (1986) from St. Scholastica's College where she finished a degree in music (piano) in 1937. Kasilag's music for the Philippine Madrigal Singers, which performed outstanding cultural leadership especially in...music and the performing arts...acknowledged...in the national (and) international world of musicians and artists."

Part of the PMS' write-up on her read: "Once asked what she would like to be remembered for, the grand dame of the arts said: 'First I made a difference in music.' And she has. Her passion for indigenous music led her to travel to remote areas, gathering them with Western idioms has refused her to decade career as composer who has more than 200 pieces to her name), conductor, educator, researcher, administrator and cultural entrepreneur."

Kasilag composed the Philippine national hymn. She wrote a short piece for the beautiful book "Daughters Tree: 100 Years of Inhabitants Education" (which won a 2007 National Book Award). The man about her students days at St. Scho-

Human Face

Ma. Carmi F. Dayo

for piece "Pantay, pantay, pantay" was one of the small additions to the chapter on the college of music. It was a photo of Kasilag with her piano teacher on a chinese stacked map on her graduation recital day in 1937. One can't miss the giant (color) smile of Reyes which was standout in those days.

Here is Kasilag's piece:

"When I was a college senior at Philippine Women's University, I decided to cross-match at Dean Baptista Kasilag's Conservatory of Music at St. Scholastica's College, a few blocks away from PWU. Every Thursday, the dean Brack would take an (here where I worked for a Music Teacher's Diploma. Josephine Cojuangco (Reyes), (Pres.) Cory Aquino's elder sister, was my first piano student there, as we were required to handle practice-teaching assignments during their senior year. She became president of the Eastern University Association in Baguio and her career were also my students during this period.

"Practice, practice, practice' was my answer to dear Tita Cing's 'What's way to Carnegie Hall, please?' That is what I devoted my time to at home.

Tita had been appointed Commonwealth Commissioner for Musicians and Arts. Seventeen years after graduation, I was in primary grade of my junior recital of which Alice Reyes of the Spanish daily La Vanguardia had this to say:

"To the musical Situation a new star of great magnitude has appeared. Miss Lucrecia Reyes Kasilag, a softish was a great event. I was surprised by audience with her sense of musicality, time and color in the written notes of the musical piece. This is done without much apparent effort but with ease and grace."

"With great glee, I received another 'stick'—a Bar I....in Apalit (pictures of theology) from the Philippine Ellipse. Since I had no way proceeding in orchestra before then, I was invited to Dean Herrera's to work I per (see) to Waldbauer's class was worth the effort.

"In 1941, I was on the baseball and volleyball teams, though that was short-lived. After suffering the many personal losses during the Japanese Occupation (wife of the great dismay of Doña Pura Villanueva, my piano teacher, she demanded to know, 'Do you want to be a baseball player or a pianist?' She was right. I gave up my scheduled junior recital.

"In 1942, I was on the baseball and volleyball teams, though that was short-lived. After suffering the many personal losses during the Japanese Occupation (wife of the great dismay of Doña Pura Villanueva, my piano teacher, she demanded to know, 'Do you want to be a baseball player or a pianist?' She was right. I gave up my scheduled junior recital.

"In my graduation recital, Doña Pura recalled the lesson learned for my piece of countries, the soloist played work by Igmir Paderewski. Concerto in A minor, Op. 17 (1888) for piano and orchestra. Concerto fulfilling an earned impulse. The composer was Poland's president as well, a distinguished statesman."

Kasilag was at the helm of the Cultural Center of the Philippines for many years. Her team-made directorate of the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Concerto and was responsible for its emergence as one of the country's premier cultural groups. She was chairperson of the League of Filipino Composers (1954-1956), dean of the College of Music and Fine Arts and Humanities of PWU and dean of the Philippine College of Music and Arts. She had hosted the Asian Composers' League for over 20 years and was honorary adviser to the Asian Arts Festival and honorary member of the Ateneo International Music Council.

Although born in La Union, Kasilag had a Ilocano-Kapampangan connection. She had a huge collection of Ilocano and Pampango music in general.

While parts of Mindanao burn and the sound of guns reverberates in the darkness, I imagine the Ghost Musicians sounds that Kasilag had worked to preserve and to make known to the rest of the country and the world.

Final tribute for National Artist Lucrecia Kasilag at 9 a.m. today at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Send feedback to revepal@gmail.com

Demagogues

The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III

reconciliation and unity can be achieved but only with justice, including justice for our Muslim and Moro brothers, there can be no deal with solutions by compromise with dictatorship," he would assert. Sir himself to inspire the system to sacrifice power.

In practical terms, he would... "We live, again, in a time of troubles, as Ninoy put it. 'Born to rule, if not of outright dictatorship, then a last for power that tongs to put on the jackboots of authoritarian rule,' and to Mindanao there is true, stormy, and violence years again. Confronting the many challenges to a collective question only an individual should have to answer. Who must die for what? God? Country? Self? Movement?

Lorzin, himself a member of the resistance against the Japanese occupied, "Who go, of course willingly enough to war. Of men of true nobility. What would be impossible? conscientious objector to it were universal. The patriots would be out of work. Brave would reign and mankind live happily ever after in the heaven. Everybody takes those risks and suffers for their country. And possibility of death, some even shamefully, but born of country pre-eminent to called. Out of blind, unquestioning obedience to authority. From fear of the charge of cowardice—of imprisonment if one did not go. Fear of disapproval of friends and family. Fear of being labeled and the contempt of women. Fear of fear. Whatever the reason or combination of reasons, men go to war—to die! For death, though possible or even probable, is not certain. None of them die more than once. Each man who goes to war puts his trust in God or in individual decision but a collective one. It is the members of the community who go to war against it for-

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE (An Organization of Philippine Newspapers)

A war for perpetual rule

THE FLAMES OF WAR IS RISING IN OUR homeland can be seen from afar. It pains us to see Somes going up in flames and there is nothing we can do to extinguish it. What worsens an even more is the treachery of those whose job is to protect the republic from disintegration and keep it intact as an indivisible whole. They instead fan the flames and ponder over our country's mutilation.

What has gotten into the heads of those Municipal Mayors and Datus of Maguindanao in that they should commit such perfidious and treacherous act? Why terror has been calling for unity in their respective areas? In spite of the highly questionable circumstances that put few in that position[,] and retired general Esperon, as a professional soldier, has sworn to serve and protect the republic. Both have miserably failed in their job. They would now cut up the country to solve the nasty problem of Muslim rebellion in Mindanao. Or, as columnist Conrado de Quiros suspects such as an invention[,] to believe, the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) was designed purposely as a dividing[ ]ruler of a "manufactured war in Mindanao," so that Mr Arroyo and Esperon would have their "casus belli" to declare a state of emergency with the sinister motive of extending her illegitimate rule.

The whole is the sum of all its parts. This is what we learned in Geometry. While a part is integral to the whole, it should not be allowed change the latter. Cebu flag, Dabie Garcia was right in asking: "Who amended the Constitution to be amended to conform to the MOA?"

All laws and actions of the government should be in part of the whole which is the Constitution. Should there be any deviation in any of the laws or government actions, these should be corrected to conform to the fundamental law of the land instead of the latter being amended to conform to an infirm part.

Mr Ariroo simply wants to stay indefinitely in power at all costs beyond June 30, 2010. Enough of these pronouncements that she will step down when that day comes. Admitedly, she had been the cause of the country's divisiveness. Mr Arroyo vowed on Dec. 30, 2002 that she would not run in the 2004 presidential elections. She reneged on that promise. What will stop her from breaking another one?

Her credibility has sunk to an all-time low. She knows that she has lost all credibility before the public, and she might even[ ]it would be to her[ ]do anything[ ]to cling to power. Her[ ]ambition[ ]has[ ]overpowered[ ]her[ ]conscience[ ]and[ ]she[ ]has[ ]become[ ]a[ ]monster[ ]to[ ]the[ ]people.

We should help end her folly now. Those in the military and the security forces who value dignity and love their country, and who should serve the people — and the Imperator who does not[ ]in the[ ]Palace by the grinding[ ]river — in their resistances, should not allow their selves to be used as pawns in the arroyo's chessboard of personal politics.

—RAMON SAFUGA,
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LETTERS

Why not a republic out of every region?

AS I SEE IT, PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo is pushing Charter change to save the country's[ ]is a sense of federal status. The[ ]intention is good[ ]to promote economic development. However, I think it would be better if we just divide the country into several states.

Hawaii, the Philippine host, the "Aloha-Aloha" [to each his own] attitude. So it would be better for the Bagong[ ]pag-asa to have a republic of Pampanga, for the Bicanos, a Republic of Ilocos, and so on and so forth.

Anyway, it would be useless to federalize our regions with the same old political leaders wearing different collars.

Kidding aside, let it be each region to its own. Let each region be its own republic.

—JOSE DANIEL PARAS,
josep999@yahoo.com

Church corrected Rina's reference

I[ ]REFERS TO RINA JIMENEZ-David's column titled "Catholic plurality," (Inquirer, 8/7-24, 08) I just want to point out the facts she missed concerning the author Daniel Maguire, S.J., particularly on the latter's claim regarding the Catholic Church's teaching on abortion and contraception.

Maguire was in fact corrected by the US Bishops' Conference on his views, specifically on Catholic plurality on contraception and abortion. The bishops' statement declared that there is only one legitimate Catholic teaching on contraception and abortion—that they are intrinsically immoral.

It is essential that David simply examine the position of Maguire based on his book, for at least David should not give the impression that there is really a legitimate plurality in the Church on these issues. Please read the http://catholicism.about.com/b/2008/08/07/catholic-teaching-on-abortion-is.htm]

—KEDDYTHORE LA RIBA,
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THE CHAMBER OF AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURERS OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

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SOLAR

To walk or not to walk

THIS IS A REACTION TO TWO LETTERS: Claude Inopiblefolene[ ]"The merits and joys of walking" (Inquirer, 6/15/08) and Ana Isidro's "Invariable in walking students exposed to risks" (Inquirer, 7/4/08), which argued against the former.

Being a mother myself, I will not question why Isidro makes sure that her children are driven to and from their school, despite its nearness to their home. Her paranoia is understandable. Just watch the news every day. However, I do not think that Inopiblefolene was "over-romanticizing" the advantages of walking[ ]to better options. I have no problem with her opinion, but I thought that she was unreasonably only, as if Inopiblefolene had no good reasons for suggesting to (not obliging) his students to join walking a try. It is beneficial to stress road safety and to take precautions. I even find it very touching that he takes time out to offer his students "detailed directions on the safe and relatively pollution-free routes they could take going home..." He[ ]never deprived him as a caring teacher.

But yes, given that the criminals in our society look everywhere, and find no one can predict just where and when they will wreak havoc, we all need be vigilant. I guess this thing about[ ]whether or not parents would allow their children to walk going to/from school, or anywhere for that matter, depends largely on how they gauge the safety in their respective localities. If all boils down to personal choices. Walang pilitan.

I, for one, do not feel so threatened by the environment in Diliman, where my family and I live and where children are seen walking the streets on their own hours. Since it is a fine day, after Inopiblefolene[ ]letter came out, I fetched my 12-year-old son at his nearby high school and we walked home together. During the[ ]dinner hall hour hike, my son did not complain. Since then, he's done just that several times. Though he[ ]still prefers to[ ]ride the bike when he walked home alone, he could not help but sound a bit proud talking about his solitary escapade.

I hope this habit that he has started in developing[ ]inputs positively on his independence, curiosity and physical endurance, and also[ ]deprive him of[ ]responds to unnecessary guilt, safety risks, school-related or not, and I'm glad[ ]this he appreciates being able to save money by walking.

I'm all for my son walking home if he wants to, but I also won't ignore the risks that come with it. That's why I always remind him to[ ]not use[ ]when he's on his own, and to[ ]be cautious by somewhere before proceeding home, to be home not later than 5:30 p.m., to look at both sides of the road before crossing, to stay close to other people and keep his cell phone in his bag when walking, to bring an umbrella and an[ ]extra shirt, to put a small[ ]amount in his book, to be conscious of his belongings and his surroundings, and to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and protection.

—RINA PEREL,
myrakmail@yahoo.com

Only cheating power users are punished

JUSTICE IS THE PHILOSOPHY IS FOR THE "common law"!

So, there is no need for any extra[ ]paper or lengthy studies or papers on the Philippine justice system (especially between you[ ]to verify the proposition. The ordinary Filipino only knows too well the answer to the question. He sees it right in the streets[ ]and[ ]hears it in the[ ]supreme justice system: If you have money or you are well-connected or you happen to be in the business[ ]community, a guilty verdict or you will take forever. But if you don't know anybody, it won't take a day or two for you to land in jail.

This is the Pinoy justice system, so what else is new. Is there a law that penalizes a person who is found to have cheated by customers?

In the case of Meralco, all that the government did was to order the power distribution utility to refund the amount it overcharged to customers. On the other hand, how[ ]to check on how much distributors are getting from consumers found, even without formal basis, pilfering electricity?

Why is it that there is a law punishing power pilferage by consumers but there is no law that punishes power utilities[ ]when they[ ]that involves me functioning properly. Consumers should not be made to answer for defective meters after all, power distributors, as business entities, should be the one protecting their interests to ensure that they are correctly

—RUDOLPH TO,
rudotwo@yahoo.com

Across the NATION

53 cops sacked after 'shabu' lab bust

DAGUPAN CITY—FIFTY-THREE POLICEMEN from La Union were relieved and were assigned to Camp Crame following the busting of a "shabu" laboratory in Naguilian town in La Union.

Chief Supt. Ramon Gaoiran, head of Task Force Bimmorobter (named after the village where the shabu laboratory was found), said the relief order came from Camp Crame.

It was signed by Chief Supt. Edgar Aglipay, director for personnel.

"Low morale prevailed among the officers and men but we explained the situation to them and we would do our best to convince higher authorities to reinstate them in office," Gaoiran said.

He said Task Force Bimmorobter's investigation showed that only one police official, Supt. Dionisio Bonoan, and three men could be involved in the shabu operations.

But he said the transfer of the 53 others to Camp Crame would compel them to reveal information in the case.

Information

"Maybe they know something which they refuse to reveal because there could be protectors for them not to talk, or they are afraid to let down their colleagues, but maybe they will decide to talk when they are in another place," Gaoiran said.

Relieved were Senior Supt. Alejandro Valeria Jr., director of the Regional Mobile Group (RMG); Supt. Conrado Custodio, chief of Agoo police; Chief Insp. Elmer Gerallan, group director of La Union police; chief of Bolinao police; eight senior inspectors and one inspector assigned with the RMG and the Bolinao police chief; and Supt. Jacqueline Lagasinol, intelligence officer of La Union police.

Most of the policemen were connected with the RMG that Bonoanoo headed before his assignment as Dagupan City police chief.

But Gaoiran said the task force was working for the immediate prosecution of the order against Lagasinol, a member of the task force. He did not elaborate.

No protection

Gaoiran said a report was submitted to the office of the police director about the alleged participation of these relieved and others named in the raids for the order.

"We do not know where the report came from," he said.

A police official in Bicol region, who requested not to be named, said the relief order was welcome because "it would restore the order in the organization of personnel by other officers and men."

"Our obligation is to the organization, not to our colleagues or friends. We should not condone any wrongdoing," the official said.

Another police officer said the operations of the shabu laboratory for a year validated the knowledge of the regional and provincial police about the negligence of the Philippine National Police.

"What were they doing all the time that the shabu laboratory was operating? Why did it take a mammoth inspection team created by the mayor to find out about it?" the officer asked. Yolanda Gayle-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

JOURNALISTS in Iloilo City wear black shirts and carry a streamer calling for a stop to the killings of journalists during a nationwide protest against the impunity with which media even more being assaulted. PHOTO BY ALVIN CAMPOMANES

Journalists take break to protest killings

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas and Jobe Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

ROVING INTERMITTENT strike, journalists gathered on Wednesday on the shores of Bacolod pasture and journalists downtown Lopez Jaena on the public plaza in Jaro District, Iloilo City to condemn the continued killings of media people in the country.

Led by the Iloilo chapter of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), 38 journalists from various newspapers and TV and radio stations wore black shirts and displayed a streamer calling for a stop to the killings.

In Zamboanga City, at least 50 journalists from radio, TV and print took a break from their usual routine and rallied at one against the spate of media killings.

"We have to do something against the killings of journalists. Our fellow journalists died because they believed in something," said Ike Sayaging, member of Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) Zamboanga.

The NUJP in Zamboanga, in a statement, said "speaking, interviewing and writing about the truth to the face of power is also dangerous as we have countless exposés of harassment, intimidation, persecution and threats."

The protesters were part of a nationwide "One of Mourning and Protest" by media groups following the killing of two broadcasters recently.

Cagle broadcaster Marvin Rosas, program director of cDWR and host of the station's "Tanghalang sa Editor" program, was gunned down by two motorcycle assailants on Aug. 7, minutes after he left the station.

Police have arrested and filed murder charges against Jovrel Lacañiento, 27, and Christian Ten, 25, who were arrested in a police checkpoint in Tolosa town.

Another RMN broadcaster, Orlando Cuenca, was shot to General Santos City last Aug. 4 and died the days later.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ BACOLOD CITY

Gov orders probe of missing rice

NEGROS Occidental Gov. Isidro Zayco has directed the filing of administrative and criminal cases against those responsible for the disappearance of sacks of rice intended for a provincial grocery, covid 19 agency.

Zayco said at least 396 sacks of rice could not be accounted for. These were meant for the provincial government's food-for-work program.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

■ TACLOBAN CITY

Samar seen as base of DOH nat'l office

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on new national government centers said he would support the bid to transfer of the national office of the Department of Health to Eastern Visayas.

Victor Domingo said the transfer would be good for the region as it would bring medical services closer to some of the country's poorest provinces, particularly Samar.

"Samar is in dire need of doctors. In fact, there are municipalities there which do not have any doctor at all," Domingo said.

Nine out of 16 Eastern Visayas towns that have no doctors are in Samar—Jiabong, Tarabon, Daram, Pagsanjan, Motiguinan, Sto. Niño, Almagro, Tagapul-an and Sandoval.

Jose A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

■ CALAMBA CITY

Cops kill 3 robbery suspects in clash

THREE suspects in various cases of robbery and holdup in Laguna, Batangas and Rizal provinces were killed in a clash with police before dawn yesterday in Dahayao, Laguna, police said.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., Laguna police chief, said policemen were on patrol when they encountered the suspects on board a black Isuzu Sportsrider with a red-colored license plate, indicating it was government vehicle.

The vehicle, it turned out, was stolen from Romualdo Garcia, municipal administrator of Bifian, Laguna, on Monday.

Dead are those killed were Geronimo Ortega, alleged leader of a gang involved in at least nineteen of gas stations, convenience stores and pawnshops.

Ortega was also linked to the kidnapping of Indian nationals, Rojas said.

Nina Catherine Dahigo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

200 illegal fish pens to be removed Aug. 26

MORE than 200 illegal fish pens and cages in Manila Bay off Cavite coastal towns will be dismantled starting Aug. 26, Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi announced Friday.

Maliksi has signed and released Executive Order No. 114 creating an inter-agency task force to remove illegal fishing structures in Cavite towns such as Rosario, Bacoor, Kawayan and Cavite City.

"Our local fishermen are the ones suffering. Their catch is no longer abundant to give them sufficient income," Maliksi said in a press release.

Nina Catherine Dahigo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

War, peace set apart brothers

ZAMBOANGA CITY —They are brothers—one for peace, the other for war.

Abdusakkur Macapaza is known to his colleagues in the rebellion Local Monitoring Team (LMT) as "Lamsa."

His brother, Abdullah, is leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels who attacked four towns in Lanao del Norte on Monday.

Adnan Dupcilas, a member of the LMT, said she and Lamsa have been working together in monitoring compliance with the cease-fire agreement.

The LMT is the local arm of the Joint Commission on the Cessation of Hostilities.

"In fact, it was Lamsa who coordinated with his younger brother Abdullah to pull out," Dupcilas said.

Lamsa said of the six Macapaza siblings, only he and Bravo are alive.

"There are only two surviving Macapazas, Bravo and I, but there are great differences between the two of us," he said.

"Bravo is an Afghanistan and Bin-Laden-trained fighter even if he only completed his elementary years. Me? I am broadly trained," he said. Julie L. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

ULAP RESOLUTION NO. 2008-08

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE TREACHEROUS ACTS COMMITTED BY ROGUE ELEMENTS OF THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF)

WHEREAS, the representatives of both the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have been negotiating with the end in view of forging a lasting peace in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the proposed Memorandum of Agreement on The Ancestral Domain Aspect of the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001 has been made the subject of a Temporary Restraining Order issued by the Supreme Court of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, even recently, certain elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have been taken over a number of local government units in the provinces of North Cotabato, Sarangani and Lanao committing in the process violence upon against life and properties;

WHEREAS, the atrocities perpetrated by the rogue elements of the MILF are being disowned by the leadership of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front;

WHEREAS, these treacherous acts are grossly against all norms of civil society and the rule of law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that all the members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the atrocities perpetrated by misguided elements of the MILF as plain barbaric and criminal acts which contravene the spirit of the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines enjoin all stakeholders in this peace process to respect the rule of law and abide by the wisdom and decision of the final arbiter of this question of law, the Supreme Court of the Philippines;and

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines furnish copies of its members of the affected local government units to extend all possible forms of assistance to the victims of these atrocities.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the members of the National Executive Board of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines present during its Organizational Development Seminar held at the Executive Lounge, Lancaster Hotel, August 19-21, 2008.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

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SOON, these rice fields will be underwater and become part of Lake Buso, Camarines Sur's "phantom lake." Mount Asog, rising from the shores of now-ill-famous Lake Bulú, looms in the background.

High farm costs hound lake town

By Jonas Cabilus Soliva
Bula, Camarines Sur

DESPITE SUBSIDIES FROM the municipal government, farmers in villages surrounding Lake Buso in the third-class town of Bula (annual income: P21 million-P27 million) in Camarines Sur find their income plummeting amid soaring prices of fertilizer, pesticide and other inputs necessary for rice production.

Ramon Romulo Alba, 54, of Barangay San Jose, said the lower price of hybrid palay seedlings and farm supplies sold by the national government were not enough to make up for his other production expenses. These include regularly irrigating the rice fields using diesel-fueled water pumps at a cost that had risen significantly because of repeated increases in the pump price of diesel.

Irrigating a hectare of rice field consumes three to four gallons of diesel, Alba said.

Borrowings

The farmers added that the capital they used for rice production was often borrowed from palay buyers to whom they would sell their crops at a lower price to defer repayment.

This, despite the fact that the National Food Authority's government office in neighboring Pili town would buy the crop at a higher price.

The situation meant a big cut in the farmers' earnings. This has been prevalent, reportedly among small-scale farmers and landless farm workers in lakeside villages in Bula, according to municipal agriculture officer Maximilla Baroja.

But she said the municipal government had been trying to solve the problem through agricultural programs, such as the distribution of certified palay seedlings and more sustainable ones, such as fishery management that educates fishers on economical and environment-friendly fishing practices.

Poor communities

According to a study conducted by the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research in 2006, communities around Lake Buso have high incidences of poverty.

Many residents are mainly marginal fishers who depend on the lake's resources for their livelihood.

Most Bula farmers living along the shores of Lake Buso, referred to as a "phantom" lake because of periodic changes in surface area, would turn to fishing every rainy season, when the expanding lake would overrun the rice fields.

From September to December, the farmers earn from fishing, recouping such gains from the neighboring towns of Buso and Nabua, which are also reached by lake waters at the peak of the wet season.

But residents said they earned little from the seasonal industry because fishing in Lake Buso was not as established as those in Lakes Buso and Bolú, which are also found in the fourth district of Camarines Sur.

Fish scare

The freshwater fishing industry in Buso experienced a short-term boom following a fish scare that saw a decline in fish prices.

Fish vendor Marilou Tribiano, 54, who has been selling freshwater fish in the town's plaza for several years, confirmed a temporary increase in the demand for freshwater fish, including tilapia, mudfish, carp and catfish, during the last few weeks.

But she said the demand was now waning and the selling prices of freshwater fish had been returning to normal.

FARMERS incur additional expense to irrigate their fields.

No Go; last man ...

From page A1

Australian lost to Thailand's Chonlatarot Khordoon, 2-0, in the quarterfinals.

Billoning has grand speed and tenacity, Go played on-the-up all throughout in the compact, lightly organized dual action roles scored the fighter's only points in the second round.

And, although the judges declared a point from Carroll's mean for repeatedly backing away with just 10 seconds left in the match, the Filipino's late rule identity ended.

Go was tested to go all the way in the semifinals after scoring the lone second frame but in the role of the attacker and claiming the Australian, a fighter he had soundly beaten before, by his aniston match of the University of Science and Technology-Beijing Gymnasium.

The unexpectedly quick exit of the Beijing-bound fighter from Bonanza left Manila Administrator Alvarez as the country's remaining hope for a medal.

Rener Harry Tabiano, the only other Filipino with a solid chance, according to pundits, bombed out in the first round of the light flyweight matches.

"We disagree with the outcome but we have to accept it," said Robert Seneviratne, president of the National Taekwondo Association and chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"Sometimes's forks connected but I doesn't score and seem by the judges. We are still proud of our fighters. We thank all those who supported Filipinos."

Flores starts her bid for Olympic redemption Friday when she opens up against Croatia's Sandra Zinic in their "Group of Death" in the women's -57 kg class. (See related story in Sports, Page A23.)

Go's defeat came in a clinch to the few Filipinos in the gallery, including POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who later went to an area at the venue where athletes, journalists and delegations officials can meet, in try and console Go.

But the POC chief was unable to see the fighter who, according to RP team medical officer Dr. Bert Pineda, was devastated—"He was crying"—and awaited to be left alone to lick his wounds.

Carroll initiated the first telling exchange of the match, just after the halfway mark of the second round, and scored on a 45-degree kick that caught an offbalanced Go flush on the chest.

The 22-year-old from Brisbane then made it 2-0, 10 seconds before the round's end, after recording his counter 45-degree kick to the body as Go pressed forward for an attack.

As these around drawn to the final seconds of the round, the wildly flustered Filipino unleashed a lunging axe kick but missed Carroll's face by a whisker.

Not one of the four judges gave Go the benefit of the doubt. A scoring axe kick would have meant an instant 3 points.

"Maliwag talaga yung tables: the strategy is taekwondo. Sobrang-bilis ng is really chasing in taekwondo," Cojuangco lamented.

"So, pinapay labanan, kailangan mo talaga aggressive ka. Di mo kasi kaya'ng fight, you have to be aggressive," he added. "Like sa isa kasi nasa same, nung kanung to yung Athens (Especially during the last round when the round was ok ready leading)."

In losing to Carroll, Go sets a standard of the fighter who bagged the silver at the 2006 Doha Asian Games and finished third...At the opening of the Australian, in last year's world Olympic qualifying tournament in Manchester, England.

Never known to be a relentless fighter, Go usually thrives on whirlwind attacks and counters. But not against the younger and relentlessly better prepared Australian, who delivered his audio engineering studies at the Queensen University of Technology to prepare for the Olympics.

ing local scores Cojuangco has summoned to his warpath chairs by landmarks, as he was the whole series.

Still, it was Gaudiel's eighth in the overall and first since the Philippine Cup last year, which won Ginebra's first announcement of

EBA Mask of Barangay Ginebra rises to haired past Ranidel de Ocampo (front) and Jayjay Suarez (back) of Air 21. Photo courtesy Ranidel Talad were named Finals MVP.

the title of the Magi.

Ah-Ol, in the Big Dream for the first time in six years in the league, got all the opposing it could catch for after hauling Yabut-Jacobs and import Chris Alexander limped out of the three late in the third quarter when both suffered different leg injuries.

And that was after the Kings had established leads of as many as 13 points, the last at 65-52 after a three-point drive by Yabut heading into the final 7:39 of the third quarter.

Alexander subjected to the first import over Thomas earlier in the series, did return after getting treated for a strain. But he joked up his 40th personal foul as again, but still played enough defense without having to surrender his catch despite chasing possible Ah-Ol reinforcement Steven Thomas.

Ah-Ol led, 84-83, after an Asinas bunny followup of his own miss with 4:27 to play. But that would prove to be the final time that the Express would score, as they lapsed into a seven of errors and ill-advised shots.

"I have always been spirited in that conference," Ah-Ol coach Bo Hansel said. "I promised God that I would give him all the glory if we win. But if Ginebra won, maybe God wanted to bless all fans of Filipinos in between."

Crowd impact

"Game 7 is just one game, somebody is going to win and someone is going to lose," Hansel said. "I think we did pretty well this conference. We still overachieved. Maybe we were not just ready for the import that the Ginebra got to the games."

So physical was the game that the Express were whistled for two Flagrant 1 fouls in the first half, the last on Hunter Jr. on Alex Crisano and the second on Asinas. As so a late-breaking Fred Jerwill.

But both Kings recalled that combined five rhymes which could have given Ginebra a much comfortable buffer and the Express exploited this to take the halftime break trailing by just three, 49-46.

An overflow crowd of 22,902, filled the Big Dome over as cavers were turned away minutes before the start.

That figure now represents the new league high since the Crispa-Toyota glory days when the Araneta Coliseum, before a renovations to the late decade that put individual seats in the upper level D sections, reportedly held crowds of more than 35,000.

National team discussion

Meanwhile, the board convenes for the penultimate time under the chairmanship of Fed Bell's Tony Chua as the league's efforts to 2006 today to choose your crucial issue concerning the national team.

High in the list of things to be discussed would be whether non-salaried Bonnell "Tonsy" Barrios would have the sole discretion on who to appoint as national Beer coach when the Philippines re-assembles queen-capability for the 2013 Lanzhou Olympics.

Ying Galsic, the Richmond Red Bull coach, is high in the list of candidates.

Chua will relinquish his post in the board's annual meeting in March early next week, when Joseph Tello of Manila will be elected chair and Robert Yeo of Barangay Ginebra as vice-chair.

The 34th Season will open Oct. 4, the first time that the league will take the fall off to the semi-finals concurrently to allow time to what will be an, eight-game week. That will be done in order to have the season end on July and muddle for PBA to help national basketball team.

Noong 2004, lumabas sa Senate investigation na P724 million mula sa fertilizer budget ng Department of Agriculture ang ni-release, para walang namagpag ang mga magkakalaban sa mga nagdaan na halalan ito ay tahasan ding ginamit sa mga kandidato sa kampanya! Sinabi ng Administrasyon na pinabulaanan ang mga nasabing ito pero ang pera, ayon sa kanilang mga sarili, ay nagamit sa kampanya.

Ang parang kinahaw sa gobyerno at parang kinahaw sa atin. Hindi ito napupunta sa agrikultura, sinasabayan kalunggan o pangkabuhayan.

Kaya huwag tayong pumayag na walang managot sa mga kaso ng korapsyon! Huwag tayong kikitaw hanggat hindi hinahuli, sinisita at pinaparusahan ang mga may sala. Kung hindi, lagi na lang tayong talunan.

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More Sports and Olympic stories on pages A1, A17 and A23 to A27

Late SPORTS

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Ginebra is king of PBA Fiesta Cup

By Marang R. Castillo

BARANGAY GINEBRA LAST NIGHT RETURNED TO greatness in the face of all sorts of adversities that may thought the Kings couldn't live through. And with a collective resolve in the season's final game, the Kings also proved that adversity is what they thrive on.

Walking wounded for practically the whole route, the Kings dug deep one more time and bombed an April 11 title that unleashed itself in the 1980s after, hammering out a 97-94 Game 7 victory for the Smart PBA Fiesta Cup before a stomping, chanting Barangay of the Araneta Coliseum.

Ronald Tubid scored 22 points, making all of his 11 free throw attempts, and Eric Menk added 21 and 14 rebounds to draw Finals MVP honors in a series that will go down the history books as one of the closest ever fought.

Tubid played part his inside game in these Finals, returning from a six-week absence because of a dislocated ankle to infuse the fire raising in the Jesse Jacome of injuries to Jayjay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa.

Menk, meanwhile, played like the rock-solid warrior that he is after spending most of the elimination on the bench because of various injuries. He went up to average 12 points and 7.1 rebounds while becoming the prime offensive option last night.

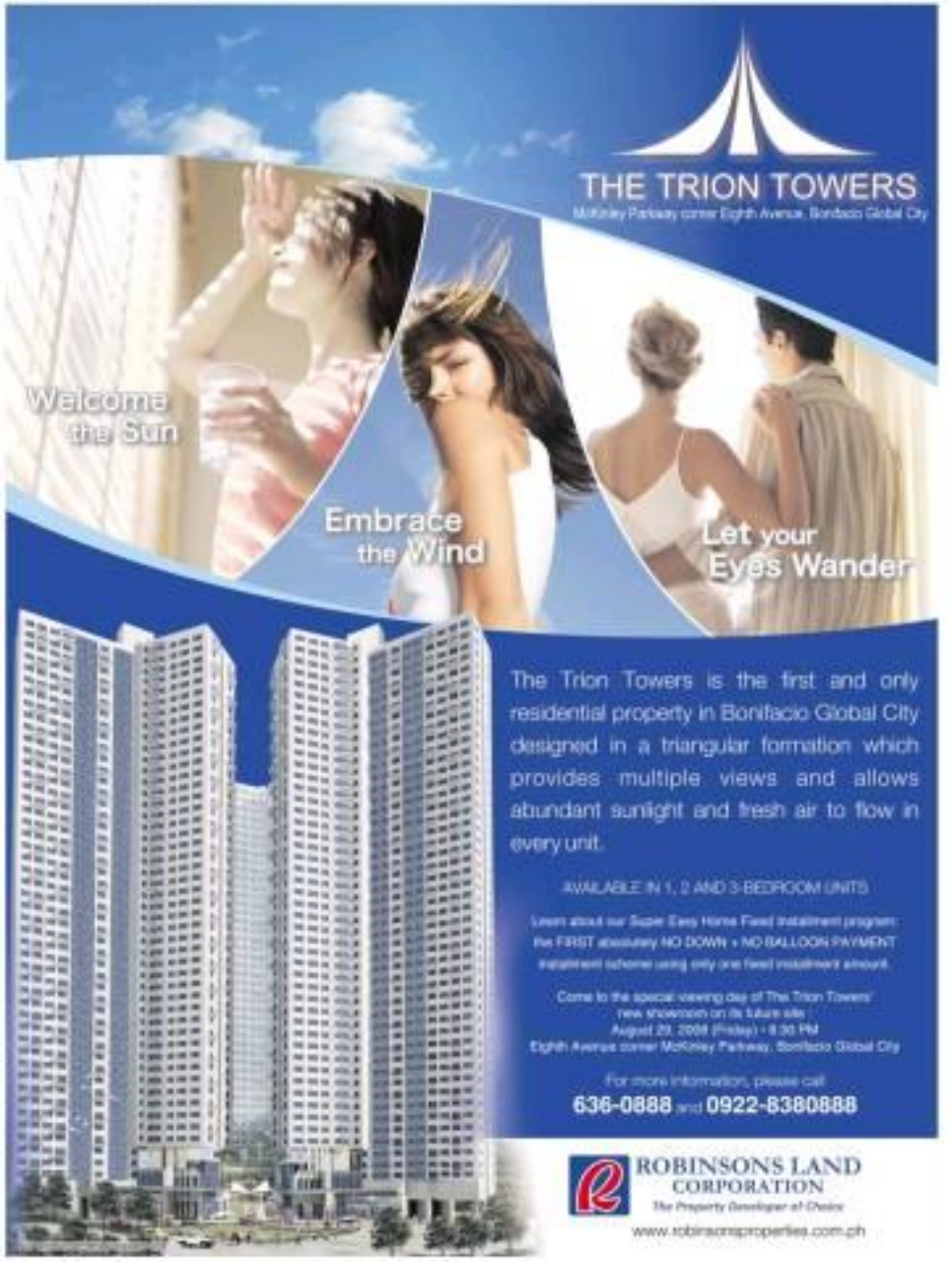
The Gin-Kings even up ahead the ending that the Elasto had hoped for after running out front, 3-2, with a masterful Game 5 victory.

And the temperament of the Elasto showed during times of trouble in the rubber match, as the veterans, Nyssan Advincula most notable among them, folded up in the face of a coming attack put up by the Kings.

"What's there to really say? Every championship season a lot," coach Jong Uichico, soaked and all, later said after pocketing his eighth career championship. "You are really happy about it because you've worked so hard for a certain goal.

"The important thing is to keep on trying," he added. "It's hard to explain how we won the series. The players deserve all the credit for not giving up despite all the adversities we had to overcome."

The Kings were without Helterbrand for the fifth consecutive game, and lost-



Aplus METRO
Editor Ester D. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

A MUSEUM dedicated to Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was installed beside the People Power Monument on Edsa in February 2009. The anniversary was to Power in 1983 by Filipino sculptor Teresa Camacho. It was first brought to the U.S. then to the Philippines in 1984.

Businessman Jose Antonio Gonzalez donated the statue to a Makati building and later donated it to the city of Manila. In 2008, the city government donated the statue to the Spirit of Edsa Foundation, which decided to place it beside the Edsa monument.

Cyril L. Bonoan Jr. Inquirer Research

Bank employees robbed in Cainta

Armed men ambush group with cash for moneychanger's shop

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWELVE MEN DISGUISED AS POLICEMEN ROBBED bank employees who were about to deliver money to a moneychanger shop on Felix Avenue in Cainta, Rizal, at around noon yesterday.

Cainta police chief, Supt. Nonoy Torrecampo, said the robbers, who were dressed as members of the Special Weapons and Tactics unit, also tried but failed to take the money in safe-access travel vans parked nearby.

According to Torrecampo, the armored van owned by the United Coconut Planters Bank stopped near Q Plaza in Cainta to let off several bank employees who were going to deliver money to the Gramos Pawnshop Exchange shop inside the mall.

As the bank employees were walking toward the mall entrance, they were met by several men carrying M16 and M14 rifles. The robbers forcibly took the bag containing the money. Police have yet to get an estimate of how much was stolen from the employees.

The armed men also disarmed the bank's security escort and then tried to get inside the armored van.

However, the driver of the van stepped on the gas, hitting two of the robbers who were standing in front of the vehicle.

"The suspects immediately left the area but carried their injured companions and loaded them into their getaway car," Torrecampo said.

He added that the robbers also fired warning shots to warn off would-be pursuers.

Except for the two robbers, no one else was hurt in the incident.

The getaway vehicles—two Toyota Revos with plate numbers WMD 233 and WPS 419 SL—were later found in Marikina City, at least two kilometers away from the scene of the crime.

Marikina City police chief, Senior Supt. Jerome Ramos, said they found inside the vehicles bullets for M16 and M-14 rifles, empty bottles of an energy drink and three bottles of mineral water.

"We preserved the prints on the bottles to determine their identities," Ramos said.

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DIALOGUE FOR PEACE MTRO PHOTO

National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Geary Barias greets Muslim leaders at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, where they talked about maintaining peace and order in the communities amid the ongoing conflict in parts of Mindanao.

23 women rescued from recruiters

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWENTY-THREE WOMEN, including a minor, believed to be victims of human trafficking were rescued by the police from a five-story building in Valenzuela City on Tuesday.

Valenzuela police chief, Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza said the women were promised jobs abroad by Audrey and Thelma Que, owners of Philquest Agency.

The victims, who had been recruited from various provinces in Visayas and Mindanao, were temporarily staying in the building while waiting for their applications to be processed.

Mendoza said at least 300 women were staying in the building, all of them waiting for their chance to go abroad.

The victims, however, were not allowed out of the building as they had been unable to pay the fees demanded by the couple. One of the victims even slipped their study Que had smuggled in.

The couple were later charged with qualified trafficking in persons and illegal recruitment. They however denied all the charges against them.

"They were promised jobs abroad. But they claimed some of them had been staying in the building for more than a year and worked as housemaids for the couple who recruited them from the province without being paid," Ichu said.

He added that it took two hours before the raiding team, composed of operatives from the Central Investigation Detection Group and the anti-illegal Recruitment Task Force of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and local police were allowed to go inside the building.

The operation ensued from a complaint filed by Mary Jolli, one of the victims rescued by the Que's, who was able to escape from the building.

According to Jolli, she had changed her mind about working overseas and told the couple to return her payment so she could go back to Magsaysay in Davao.

The Que's, however, allegedly refused to let her go unless she paid P10,000 for letting her stay in the "dormitory."

Leviste aide's driver contradicts widow's testimony

By DJ Yap

THE DRIVER OF RAFAEL DE LAS Alas took the stand yesterday to deny virtually all statements made by De las Alas' widow and children in the murder trial of former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste.

Leviste is on trial for shooting De las Alas, the condemned in the killing of his wife but said he did it in self-defense.

Salvador Cupitis said it was not true De las Alas argued for weeks past 10:00 a.m. on Jan. 12, 2007, the day he was shot by Leviste in his office in Lagunzad Village, Makati City.

Cupitis also made blanket denials of the testimonies of De las Alas' wife, Teresita, and their children, Irene and Christine, about their relationship with the victim.

He told Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 that Teresita and De las Alas stayed in the same house but slept in separate bedrooms, contrary to what Teresita had said in her testimony.

Upon questioning by defense lawyer Jhosep Capeda, Cupitis said De las Alas slept in a room on the ground floor with his sons, Miko and Christian, whom he allegedly fathered with another woman. Teresita, was on the second floor, he added.

The driver said he knew this because he often stayed overnight in the couple's house. He also said Teresita had told him she would not accept De las Alas' other children, and would not allow them to go to parties. Cupitis further denied the statement of De las Alas' family that the victim had been in a happy mood on Jan. 12, 2007, saying he been had been sad and quiet at the time.

He even denied a statement from Christian that the victim had been downloading songs on his iPod from the computer. Cupitis said he did not see any computer turned on when he went inside the house.

He also denied the testimonies of protective preservation witnesses that De Las Alas came to the office at past 11 a.m.

Cupitis said he and De las Alas left the house at about 9:30 a.m. and arrived at the office earlier than usual, adding that the victim expected for work at noon or early afternoon.

However, he admitted to Senior State Prosecutor Raymund Velasco that he could not remember the De las Alas family's sleeping arrangement days before he did not live there.

The defense also presented the testimonies of Darwin Molato, a present manager of fast food resorts under Leviste's employ; Lenore Leonardo Jamilla; and Erick Gendrala, a building maintenance officer in one of Leviste's properties.

RESIDENTS in a Caloocan barangay in Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, watch together as its barangay chairman killed while floodwaters rise. This is the second time this year that the village has been hit by floods.

Stopping an insatiable appetite

ON TARGET
ANTONIO TUJO

THERE'S A SAYING AMONG Cebuanos and even Mindanaons in Mindanao that if you give your hand to meet thieves, they will want the whole arm.

President Gloria Arroyo thought that by rewarding part of Mindanao to these types, they would finally leave their guns to live in peace.

The Tausugs, other part Mindanaons, should have known their appeasement would be taken as a sign of weakness.

Most Moros love our hospitableness to just their excuse for reaping rice.

Give them Mindanao and they would want to have Luzon and the Visayas as well.

Fighting them would stop their insatiable appetite.

No, they should not only be fought, they should be crushed.

Any leniency or subduing-ness in front of the Tausugs and other Moros as Arabians (They fly purified on the carabao's back stands taller than the carabao)—Filipinos saving.

The saying applies to a Pinoy who is more arrogant than the poisoned he works for.

An example is a lowly Aetonian forced College graduate appointed by the Batangas captain to protect his fellow villagers, but whose volunteer title proves he lies.

Some of the Filipinos still at the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Embassy in Manila are other examples of the disgrace we the carabao's back.

The Filipinos at the embassy are the subject of xenophobic by fellow compatriots who apply for working visas in the PNG Embassy.

What could Manila island.

"They are disrespectful and without manners," said Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, describing the Filipinos said to the PNG Embassy.

Nasisi is one of several Filipino entrepreneurs in the Pacific island who dealt with the embassy in obtaining visas for Filipinos to be employed in her business in Papua New Guinea.

I remember if the arrogance and ill manners of these people were acquired at the workplace.

...

Mr. Head, Businessman Ramon A. Paz, had been conservative Japanese restaurant inside the Shun Hotel in Makati and was waiting for his car at the hotel entrance when he was attacked by several armed men.

One of his attackers pistol-whipped Paz on the head, causing a fracture and sending him to the intensive care unit of a nearby hospital.

Paz has an insecure enemy for the many years that we've been friends. I know there is no peace development.

The security people at the hotel did not arrest Ramon's attackers even as he sought refuge in the lobby of the establishment.

My own investigation revealed that Ramon's attackers were allegedly bodyguards of a national official.

Wet day for stranded students, commuters

By Tina G. Santos

THE HEAVY RAINS BROUGHT by Typhoon "Kiko" caused flooding in several areas in Manila, leaving many students and commuters not only stranded but stranded.

According to the Manila Police District's Traffic Operations Center, low-lying areas in the city were under water, including Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard and Pureza Street in Sta. Mesa, Espeña Boulevard, A. H. Lacson and Dapitan Streets in Sampaloc, Blood Avenue, Bloementritz and Dagupan Streets in Tondo, and T. M. Kalaw, Mc Arthur Streets and Taft Avenue in Ermita.

Some of these areas became impassable to light vehicles as water rose, some of up to one meter.

Malacañang's belated announcement of the suspension of classes around noon left many students stranded because of the lack of public utility vehicles.

In Quezon City, four persons were reported missing after more than 200 residents were displaced when five-feet deep floodwaters swept into the Gawad Kalinga Village in Barangay Bagong Silangan, after a powerful rain gave way during a heavy downpour at around 7 a.m.

The missing persons, all minor children, remained at the multipurpose barangay hall where they were brought by village officials. Mayor Marilou Banaag-

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METRO BRIEFS

Quiet, please, exam ongoing

THE MAKATI City government has banned school groups from holding "destructive activities" in front of De La Salle University on Taft Avenue, Manila, during next month's first quarterly examinations.

Mayor Jejomar Binay said he decided to issue the order after receiving complaints from residents, including those of Manila University of Santo Tomas, and even the city government-run Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, upon the request of Supreme Court deputy clerk of court and bar coordinator Ma. Cristina Layusa. "We still have the rule in front of the school to 'traffic but we still no longer allow anymore to issuance fines," Garcia-Yap said. In order to the owners and operators of restaurants, eateries, boarding houses and business establishments in the area, the police asked them to refrain "from allowing school groups, fraternities and those declared in the law operations from holding activities and gatherings, partying, playing loud music and engaging in drinking sprees" in front of their establishments or parking spaces.

Alison W. Lopez

I dead, I hurt in QC attack

SUSPECTED members of the communist New People's Army gunned down a radio broadcaster and seriously wounded a government employee in the security outpost of the Peoples dump in Quezon City yesterday afternoon, Oscar Rosario, one of the auxiliary facility's security guards, died on the spot from a head from bullet wounds, said Senior Insp. Lito Fernandez of the Quezon City Police District Station 6. Randy Cardenas, an employee of the Bontoguan local government in Rizal province, was shot in the head and wounded by unidentified assailants. Fernandez said they were looking for another security guard who survived the incident. He said the victims were inside the dump's security outpost in Barangay Payatas at 5:25 p.m. when three armed men suddenly barged in and shot them repeatedly. Fernandez said residents heard the men shouting "Viva NPA!" before they escaped in a getaway boat. "Our witnesses said the gunmen looked very young. Maybe they were in their early 20s," Fernandez said. He said the description of NPA hitmen.

Marlon Ramos

US, Poland sign missile defense deal

WARSAW, POLAND— US SECRETARY OF State Condoleezza Rice and Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski signed a deal on Wednesday that will put an American missile defense base in Poland, a move that has angered a resurgent Russia.

The formal signing comes six days after the two countries agreed to a deal that will see 10 US interceptor missiles placed just 100 kilometers from Russia's westernmost frontier.

"The negotiations were very tough but friendly," Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Rice's English, after the signing.

"We have achieved our main goals, which means that our country and the United States will be more secure," he said.

The deal has sparked threats from Russia that Poland is making itself vulnerable to attack—even a nuclear one. Along with Russia's rhetoric, the agreements has further strained Moscow's ties with the West in the wake of its fighting with US ally Georgia.

Before signing the deal, Rice emphasized that the site was not intended as a threat.

"This is a system that is defensive and is not aimed at anyone," she said. "This is an agreement that will establish a missile defense site ... that will help us to deal with the new threats of the 21st century of long-range missiles from countries like Iran or from North Korea."

President Lech Kaczynski expressed "great satisfaction" at the outcome after months of negotiations.

"Both sides have achieved their goals. This is a great success for Poland," Kaczynski said, standing alongside Rice in the Presidential Palace gardens.

As well as clearing the way for the US missile defense shield to take shape, the deal is expected to further deepen Washington's military partnership with Poland, an ally in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Washington rejects Moscow's insistence that the system is a threat to Russia. It says—the majority of nine missiles rejected the idea of hosting the site—have come to see it as offering a form of protection beyond Nato in light of Russia's recent military action in Georgia.

Warsaw and Washington spent a year and a half negotiating, and talks recently had snagged on Poland's demands that the United States bolster Polish security with Patriot missiles in exchange for hosting the missile defense base.

Washington agreed to do so last week as Poland lionized the Georgia conflict to strengthen its case.

The Pentagon are meant to protect Poland from short-range missiles from neighbors—such as Russia.

Kaczynski also has stressed that the missile defense shield was purely defensive.

"We fear nobody, no one who has good intentions toward us and toward the Western world should be afraid of it," he said in a televised nationwide address on Tuesday.

Poles have been shaken by Russian threats against their nation as punishment for accepting the US site.

A day after Warsaw and Washington reached agreement on the deal last week, a leading Russian general made his country's strongest warning to date against the system. AP

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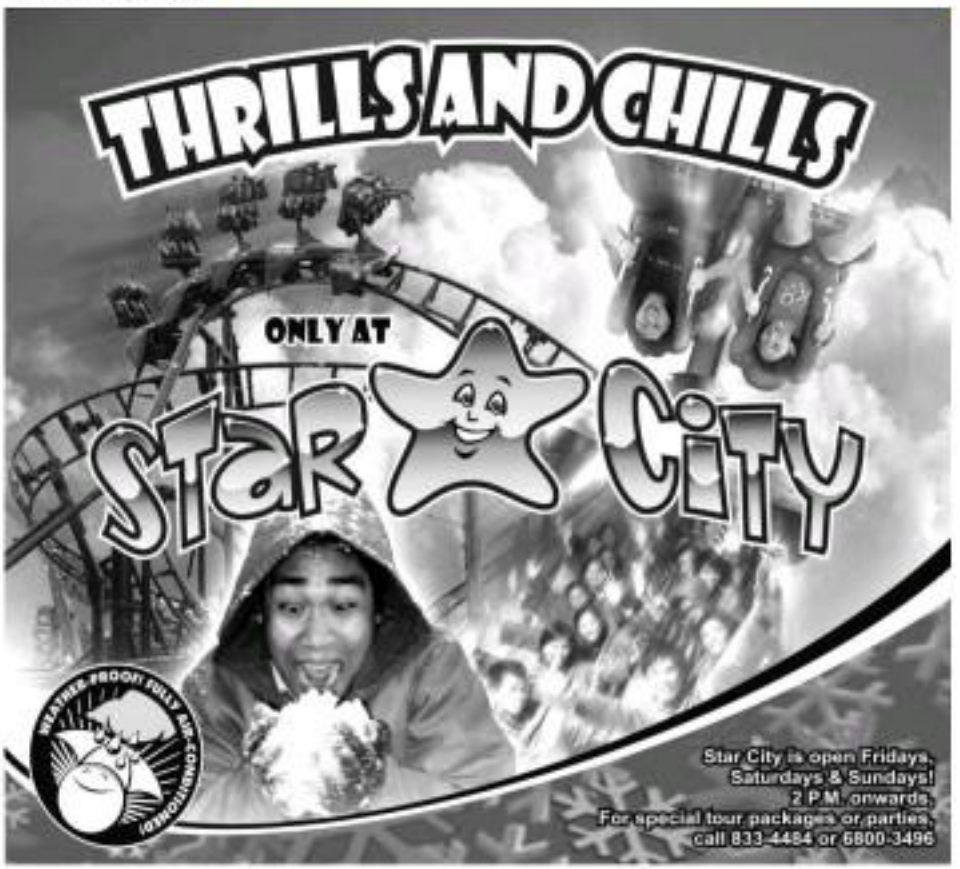

The WORLD

Edsa Lorenne B. Garcia

Obama, VP choice start campaign on Saturday

WASHINGTON—BARACK OBAMA'S NEWLY minted running mate will join the Democratic hopeful onstage on Saturday at a rally in this capital city where Obama launched his White House bid, according to a campaign official.

A senior Obama adviser on Tuesday told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that Obama and his vice presidential choice would appear in front of the former state Capitol where Abraham Lincoln once served. The last time Obama appeared there, he announced he was running for president.

The disclosure narrowed the window Obama has to reveal his running mate. The list of possibilities is widely believed to be down to Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh and Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, who planned to campaign with Obama on Thursday in his home state.

Obama's major rival for the nomination, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, was seen by some Democrats as a long shot.

As he drew closer to naming a running mate in the final days before the Democratic convention, Obama found a blunt counterattack against what he contends is Republican John McCain's habit of questioning his "character and patriotism."

His presidential picks have seldom been as important as this year. Obama was thought to be looking for a running mate who adds heft to the Democratic ticket, given the Illinois senator's relative lack of experience on the national scene.

The choice is equally vital for McCain, who turns 72 on Aug. 29 and would be the oldest first-term American president.

The Arizona senator is embarking a vice presidential announcement eight after next week's Democratic convention ends on Aug. 28, gaining an elusive Obama's post-convention glow as party delegates leave Denver, Colorado. McCain has a three-day window before his Republican nominee Sept. 1 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Obama-versus-can't-top-comparisons for the vice presidency was said to include Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Less traditional choices include former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Sen. Joe Lieberman, the Democrat-turn presidential pick in 2000 who now is an Independent.

The Obama campaign has said it will announce the choice in a cell phone text message to supporters.

"The could pick up the VP and force," Obama strategist Anita Dunn said in an interview.

Only Obama, his wife Michelle, a handful of his most senior advisers and his two-member search committee know for certain who has been vetted and discussed. Staffers were already in place to support Boeing's pick. —AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Benazir's widower

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—A major opposition party on Wednesday backed Benazir Bhutto's widower to become Pakistan's president, as the power struggle following the resignation of Pervez Musharraf intensified. And Ali Zardari's fourth, the largest party in the ruling coalition, whose chief is expected Musharraf persuaded the stalwart to rally on Monday after more years in power. AP

Musharraf unwinds

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—Pervez Musharraf seems to be enjoying himself. One day after Pakistan's longtime president resigned to avoid the humiliation of impeachment, he was playing tennis and relaxing with family and friends at his army-guarded residence, a close aide said. "He was in a good mood, very relaxed," said Tariq Azim, who was among 30 supporters who gathered at the house outside the capital, Islamabad, on Wednesday. AP

Havoc in Pacific isles

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Climate change is wreaking havoc in the small islands states of the South Pacific and scientists are needed for those already hit by rising seawater and severe storms, Pacific Islands Forum chief and Nauru Premier Toke Talagi said the frequency of severe cyclones and rising sea levels caused the challenges of climate change was no longer a matter of scientific theory. "The evidence is quite clear that climate change is already wreaking havoc here," he said as he opened the annual summit of 16 nations. Rising sea levels have forced villagers inland on four low-lying islands in the northern region.—Reuters. Nauru's airport runway is also threatened by rising sea levels, while Tuvalu's international airport is the Cartaret Islands in Papua New Guinea. AP

Pro-Anwar odom held

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—Malaysia's anti-corruption watchdog on Wednesday arrested two state lawmakers from opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's party for alleged bribery, complicating Anwar's bid to wander Parliament. Opposition groups voiced concern that the arrests were meant to undermine public support for Anwar ahead of next week's parliamentary by-election. Anwar has persistently accused Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's administration of rampant corruption and has pledged to seize power by mid-September. AP

2 more Algeria blasts

ALGIERS, ALGERIA—Terrorist bombings rocked a hotel and military headquarters in the Algerian town of Boumerdes Wednesday, killing 11 people today after a suicide bombing in a neighboring region killed 43. Wednesday's attacks targeted Boumerdes regional military command and injured four soldiers. A minute later, 11 people were killed and 27 were wounded when a second bomb went off next to a hotel in downtown Boumerdes, according to state-run national radio. AP

Accused Nazi

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—An 85-year-old man arrested for killing a Jewish teenager in Hungary during World War II can be extradited to Hungary to face charges, an Australian judge found on Wednesday. Zentai, an Australian citizen, is jailed by the US-based Nazi-hunting Simon Wiesenthal Center among its 10 most wanted Nazis on having "participated in mass Nazi persecution, and may be of Jewish descent in 1944." Hungary accuses Zentai of torturing and killing 14-year-old Peter Balazs on May 3, 1944, for failing to wear a star that would identify him as a Jew. Zentai, who emigrated to Australia in 1950, has denied the allegations. AP

Just rubber gorilla suit

ATLANTA—Skeptics call Bigfoot was just a rubber suit. Two researchers on a quest to prove the existence of Bigfoot say that the carcass encased in a block of ice—hauled west to them on a modified semi with a refrigerated trailer—was indeed a hoax. Bigfoot—was simply flawed—just discovered to be a rubber gorilla suit. The revelation comes just days after a small, bulky-haired beast confirmed an alien lived in California's mountains that the remains of the creature were found in the North Georgia mountains near the legendary man-ape. AP

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SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres Associate Editor Francis E. J. Ochoa

Last woman standing

RP's entire gold hope now on tough Toni's shoulders

By Ted S. Melendres
Sports Editor

BEIJING—THE PRESSURE GAUGE NEEDLE JUST WENT GAGA for Marie Antoinette Rivero, the nation's only remaining hope for a medal at the Beijing Olympics here, but she's not wincing. Not a bit.

With fellow taekwondo jin Tshemler Go crashing out of the -49 kg class in unexpectedly and so soon Wednesday, the 28-year-old Rivero now shoulders her nation's hopes of avoiding another embarrassing shutout in the Olympics.

And Toni is up to the task, if judges will only score all legitimate points, sweep Rodnei Arenzaquin, the head of the national taekwondo association.

"Toni is very focused, just as Tshemler was focused," said Arenzaquin, still stunned by the swiftness that took out Go from the flyweight competition.

"She is a tough girl, I know she'll manage."

Rivero starts her bid for Olympic redemption at 10 a.m. Friday when she takes on Croatian nemesis Sandra Sosic in one of the featured matches in the women's -67 kg class at the University of Sciences and Technology Beijing Gymnasium here.

The Cruz ripped the fighter from Ilocos City for the third and last shot for the Beijing Games in last year's world Olympic qualifying in Manchester, England.

The pair belong to the weight category's "Group of Death," which also includes back-to-back World Cup champion Hwang Kyung-seon of South Korea and World #19

Exodus out of China begins

By Ted S. Melendres

BEIJING—THE EXODUS OF ATH letes and officials from the Beijing Olympics has begun.

Mixed 4,000 from the United States, Russia, Japan, Hungary, Italy and the Netherlands checked out of the athletes' Village in the last 24 hours and headed straight to the capital's gleaming new international airport.

Eight athletes and 10 delegation officials have also left the Philippine quarters. Trap shooter Eric Ang, taekwondo Bhe Hadjin Diaz, archer Mark Javier, boxer Harry Tabaloc and swimmers James Walsh, Christel Simms, David Crosby and Ryan Arabejo flew home last week.

They will be followed Sunday by divers Sheila Mae Perez and Ryan Hawel Arbilla and long jumpers Henrietta Torres and Henry Dagmil.

That will leave flag-bearer Miguel Molino and taekwondo ins Maria Antonette Flores and Tshemler Go as the only Filipino athletes parading during the closing ceremonies on Sunday night.

A RECORD 250,000 taekwondoins and their rabid fans in and

SEE PAGE A27

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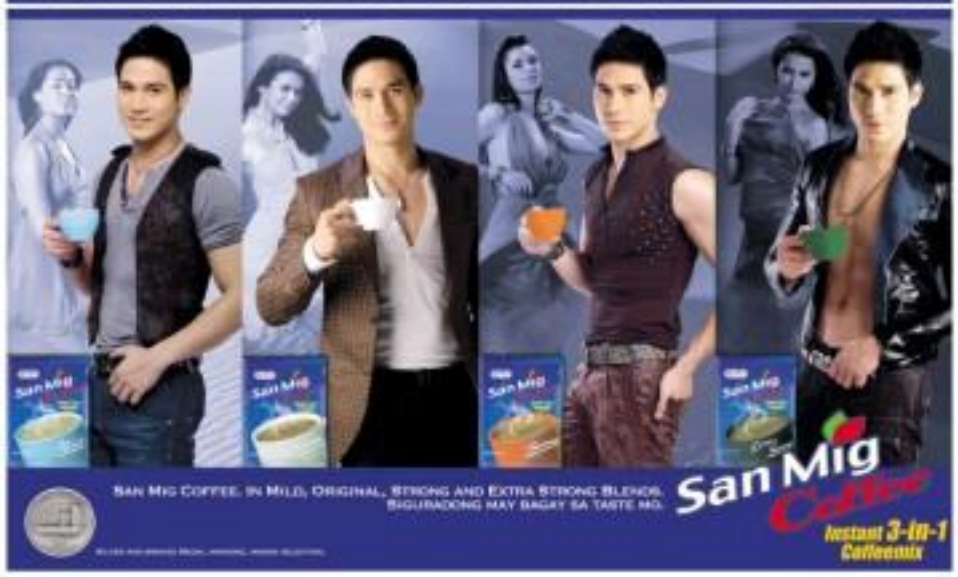

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SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

Six Filipino athletes competing today

RESULTS

Aug. 19

SHOOTING (Beijing Shooting Range)

MEN'S 50M PISTOL—First placing: Yuri Feofanov (Russia), 660.7 points; 2nd: Jin Jong-oh (South Korea), 659.1; 3rd: Tanyu Kiriakov (Bulgaria), 658.2; 4th: Pang Wei (China), 657.2; 5th: Vladimir Isakov (Russia), 656.2; 6th: Oleksandr Petriv (Ukraine), 655.2; 7th: Jonas Jakubaitis (Lithuania), 654.2; 8th: Ralf Schumann (Germany), 653.2

Aug. 17

SWIMMING (National Aquatics Center)

MEN'S 400M FREESTYLE RELAY—First placing: Jason Lezak, Cullen Jones, Garrett Weber-Gale, Michael Phelps (USA), 3:08.24; 2nd: Australia, 3:09.28; 3rd: France, 3:09.34; 4th: Russia, 3:10.00; 5th: Italy, 3:10.03; 6th: Japan, 3:10.05; 7th: Germany, 3:10.10; 8th: Netherlands, 3:10.11

MEN'S 100M BUTTERFLY—First placing: Michael Phelps (USA), 50.58 seconds; 2nd: Milorad Cavic (Serbia), 50.81; 3rd: Andrew Lauterstein (Australia), 51.22; 4th: Rafael Munoz (Spain), 51.24; 5th: Peter Mankoc (Slovenia), 51.25; 6th: Takeshi Kawamoto (Japan), 51.26; 7th: Ian Crocker (USA), 51.27; 8th: Andriy Serdinov (Ukraine), 51.28

WOMEN'S 400M FREESTYLE RELAY—First placing: Natalie Coughlin, Dana Vollmer, Christine Magnuson, Allison Schmitt (USA), 3:31.18; 2nd: Australia, 3:32.61; 3rd: Netherlands, 3:33.15; 4th: Germany, 3:33.22; 5th: Canada, 3:33.23; 6th: Russia, 3:33.24; 7th: China, 3:33.25; 8th: Japan, 3:33.26

Aug. 17

SHOOTING

MEN'S 10M AIR RIFLE—First placing: Artem Khadjibekov (Russia), 702.5 points; 2nd: Abhinav Bindra (India), 701.8; 3rd: Zhu Qinan (China), 701.7; 4th: Henri Hakkinen (Finland), 699.8; 5th: Matthew Emmons (USA), 699.6; 6th: Christian Planincic (Austria), 699.4; 7th: Jason Turner (USA), 698.9; 8th: Kim Jong-su (South Korea), 698.8

WOMEN'S 10M AIR RIFLE—First placing: Du Li (China), 502.9 points; 2nd: Kateryna Serdyuk (Ukraine), 501.8; 3rd: Kim Jang-mi (South Korea), 501.7; 4th: Nancy Johnson (USA), 499.8; 5th: Sonia Franquet (Spain), 499.7; 6th: Lioubov Galkina (Russia), 498.9; 7th: Snjezana Pejcic (Croatia), 498.8; 8th: Kirsten Weiss (Germany), 498.7

SWIMMING

MEN'S 200M BREASTSTROKE—First placing: Kosuke Kitajima (Japan), 2:07.44; 2nd: Brenton Rickard (Australia), 2:08.34; 3rd: Daniel Gyurta (Hungary), 2:08.41; 4th: Mark Gangloff (USA), 2:08.46; 5th: Christian Sprenger (Australia), 2:08.48; 6th: Hugues Duboscq (France), 2:08.49; 7th: Kyle Richardson (USA), 2:08.50; 8th: Vladimir Dyatchin (Russia), 2:08.51

MEN'S 200M BACKSTROKE—First placing: Aaron Peirsol (USA), 1:54.94; 2nd: Ryosuke Irie (Japan), 1:55.14; 3rd: Arkady Vyatchanin (Russia), 1:55.20; 4th: Markus Rogan (Austria), 1:55.21; 5th: Matt Grevers (USA), 1:55.22; 6th: Liam Tancock (Great Britain), 1:55.23; 7th: Stanislav Donets (Russia), 1:55.24; 8th: Gordan Kozulj (Croatia), 1:55.25

MEN'S 200M BUTTERFLY—First placing: Michael Phelps (USA), 1:52.03; 2nd: Takeshi Matsuda (Japan), 1:52.86; 3rd: Andrew Lauterstein (Australia), 1:53.34; 4th: Tyler Clary (USA), 1:53.36; 5th: Takeshi Kawamoto (Japan), 1:53.37; 6th: Kaio Almeida (Brazil), 1:53.38; 7th: Yevgeny Korotyshkin (Russia), 1:53.39; 8th: Jayden Hadler (Australia), 1:53.40

Aug. 18

SWIMMING

MEN'S 400M FREESTYLE—First placing: 400 m u-hikel (1:42.96); 2nd: Park Tae-hwan (South Korea), 1:44.06; 3rd: Paul Biedermann (Germany), 1:44.12; 4th: Oussama Mellouli (Tunisia), 1:44.13; 5th: Ryan Cochrane (Canada), 1:44.14; 6th: Peter Vanderkaay (USA), 1:44.15; 7th: Sun Yang (China), 1:44.16; 8th: Larsen Jensen (USA), 1:44.17

MEN'S 100M BACKSTROKE—First placing: Aaron Peirsol (USA), 52.54 seconds; 2nd: Ryosuke Irie (Japan), 52.86; 3rd: Arkady Vyatchanin (Russia), 52.88; 4th: Matt Grevers (USA), 52.89; 5th: Liam Tancock (Great Britain), 52.90; 6th: Stanislav Donets (Russia), 52.91; 7th: Gordan Kozulj (Croatia), 52.92; 8th: Hayden Stoeckel (Australia), 52.93

WOMEN'S 200M BREASTSTROKE—First placing: Leisel Jones (Australia), 2:20.17; 2nd: Rebecca Soni (USA), 2:20.34; 3rd: Jessica Hardy (USA), 2:21.24; 4th: Sarah Katsoulis (Australia), 2:21.25; 5th: Yuliya Yefimova (Russia), 2:21.26; 6th: Tera van Vliet (Canada), 2:21.27; 7th: Mirna Jukic (Austria), 2:21.28; 8th: Satomi Suzuki (Japan), 2:21.29

WOMEN'S 200M BACKSTROKE—First placing: Margaret Hoelzer (USA), 2:06.17; 2nd: Kirsty Coventry (Zimbabwe), 2:06.57; 3rd: Elizabeth Pelton (USA), 2:07.05; 4th: Sanja Jovanovski (Serbia), 2:07.06; 5th: Antonia Tutton (Great Britain), 2:07.07; 6th: Zhao Jing (China), 2:07.08; 7th: Aya Terakawa (Japan), 2:07.09; 8th: Mirna Jukic (Austria), 2:07.10

WOMEN'S 200M BUTTERFLY—First placing: Jessicah Schipper (Australia), 2:05.61; 2nd: Otylia Jedrzejczak (Poland), 2:05.68; 3rd: Kathleen Hersey (USA), 2:06.15; 4th: Hiromi Kobayashi (Japan), 2:06.16; 5th: Yuko Nakanishi (Japan), 2:06.17; 6th: Jiao Liuyang (China), 2:06.18; 7th: Alaina Bond (USA), 2:06.19; 8th: Petra Dallmann (Germany), 2:06.20

Aug. 19

ARCHERY

MEN'S TEAM—Quarterfinals: Kim Bub-min, Park Kyung-mo, Park Sung-hyun (South Korea) def. Ilias Kasidokostas, Dimitrios Mavridis, Vasileios Tsikouris (Greece), 235-226; Semifinals: Kim Bub-min, Park Kyung-mo, Park Sung-hyun (South Korea) def. Im Dong-hyun, Kim Woo-jin, Oh Kyo-moon (South Korea), 236-229; Finals: Kim Bub-min, Park Kyung-mo, Park Sung-hyun (South Korea) def. Takaharu Furukawa, Hiroshi Yamamoto, Yoshinobu Fujikawa (Japan), 223-220

WOMEN'S TEAM—Quarterfinals: Yun Mi-jin, Park Sung-hyun, Kim Yeo-jin (South Korea) def. Natalia Erdyniyeva, Inna Stepanenko, Lidiya Sivirina (Russia), 229-224; Semifinals: Yun Mi-jin, Park Sung-hyun, Kim Yeo-jin (South Korea) def. Xu Jing, Zhang Juanjuan, Zhang Xi (China), 232-227; Finals: Yun Mi-jin, Park Sung-hyun, Kim Yeo-jin (South Korea) def. Natalia Erdyniyeva, Inna Stepanenko, Lidiya Sivirina (Russia), 224-220

Aug. 20

ARCHERY

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL—Round of 32: Im Dong-hyun (South Korea) def. Ilias Kasidokostas (Greece), 116-111; Kim Bub-min (South Korea) def. Vasileios Tsikouris (Greece), 114-111; Takaharu Furukawa (Japan) def. Dimitrios Mavridis (Greece), 114-111; Kim Woo-jin (South Korea) def. Oh Kyo-moon (South Korea), 114-111; Hiroshi Yamamoto (Japan) def. Yoshinobu Fujikawa (Japan), 114-111; Park Kyung-mo (South Korea) def. Park Sung-hyun (South Korea), 114-111; Jang Yong-ho (North Korea) def. Jay Barrs (USA), 114-111; Vic Wunderle (USA) def. Rhadi Ferdiansyah (Indonesia), 114-111

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL—Round of 32: Yun Mi-jin (South Korea) def. Natalia Erdyniyeva (Russia), 114-111; Park Sung-hyun (South Korea) def. Inna Stepanenko (Russia), 114-111; Kim Yeo-jin (South Korea) def. Lidiya Sivirina (Russia), 114-111; Xu Jing (China) def. Zhang Juanjuan (China), 114-111; Zhang Xi (China) def. Ma Yuan-chi (Chinese Taipei), 114-111; Natalia Valeeva (Russia) def. Elena Tonkikh (Russia), 114-111; Dola Mitra (India) def. Ma Yuan-chi (Chinese Taipei), 114-111; Valentina Kumpan (Croatia) def. Ma Yuan-chi (Chinese Taipei), 114-111

Aug. 19

SWIMMING

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Aug. 19

ARCHERY

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Aug. 20

ARCHERY

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SOSLAN Tigiev of Uzbekistan (right) fights Bovaysa Saytiev of Russia during their 74kg men's freestyle wrestling final match at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Aug. 20.

Eagles eye No. 10 vs Warriors today

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH THE FIRST UAAP FINAL four berth marked away, Ateneo coach Norman Black reminded his Blue Eagles to focus on their next goal.

"It doesn't really stop here," said Black. "We have to keep on winning, playing hard and keep respecting our opponents."

Next up for the Eagles are the Catch-as-here University of the Philippines Warriors, as they try to close in on the twice-to-beat semifinal bonus in the 71st men's basketball competition.

The Eagles (9-1) hope for a repeat triumph in their 4 p.m. tilt today at the Araneta Coliseum, but Black doesn't expect to see the same Warriors who bowed to them, 64-58, in the first round.

"It's going to be tough. UP is playing a 3-4 series," said Black. "I watched them [last week] and they look pretty impressive. The way they play defense, it seems they get their rhythm back already."

The Warriors are coming off the most lopsided rout of the season, 95-65, over the University of the Philippines Maroons, who hosts the Adamson Falcons earlier at 2 p.m.

"Our remaining games are crucial, but I think we gained confidence in our last two wins," said coach Eladio Pamaran as his Warriors (5-4) vie to solidify their semifinal bid.

Kelvin Ildefonso got the Warriors attention in the 6-foot-4 Ateneo center amongst ITI points and 6.9 rebounds.

The Eagles' main concern is the Warriors' seasoned defensive game.

"We'll be looking to break their press because that's one of the better teams in the league when it comes to pressuring the ball," said Black.

Several Warriors have also regained their shooting touch, including skipper Marty Arellano, who scored a season-high 23 points against UP.

But his Ateneo counterpart, Chris Tiu, also hopes to rebound from a season-low of two points in the Eagles' 76-50 dumping of the Fighting Maroons last Sunday.

RP boxers set to train in four top countries

By Jove Navarro

OVERSEAS TRAINING IS FOUR CONTINENTS for three amateur boxing prospects is in store for national pugs who will emerge from a deep pool of young fighters.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez said sending the national boxers to the three countries in Asia—Cuba, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan—will be top priority when the government spurs agency begins implementing sweeping changes in the sport after the ongoing Beijing Olympics.

Ramirez also showed the need to be more aggressive in the recruitment phase of the talent discovery program to have a wider range of choices for the national team.

"We need a deep pool of young and promising boxers and mind them overseas. Nothing will happen if we just train them here," said Ramirez in an overseas telephone interview from Beijing yesterday.

The PSC czar announced the plan a day after meeting with amateur boxing chief Manny Lopez and almost a week following fight flyweight champ Volmawer Elorsa ensured rest in the boxing competition of the Olympics.

Ramirez is considering at least 20 up-and-coming boxers from various regions through qualifying tournaments across the country.

The provinces of Davao del Norte, Cebu and Negros Occidental have a rich stable of young boxers left untapped by the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

Iloilo levels Liga quarterfinals tiff

TAGBILARAN—THE ILOILO MAMS INVADERS struck on the road again, hacking out a crushing 98-68 win over Bohol's City Global to even their lesser Liga Filipinas quarterfinals series Tuesday at the CPG Tiniga gym.

Over at the Cebu Coliseum, home team and elimination topnotcher Cebu Sitrus beat the Laguna Water Stallions today in Game 1 of their own quarterfinals duel, 83-71.

Renato David scored 18 points while Dustin Go had 20 for the Mang Inasals, the only team to negate a rules-to-host drawback in the validated playoffs by winning back-to-back on the road against the Baguio Victory.

If Phelps devoured the Olympics what did Olympian Peping do?

BEIJING—WHAT THEY SHOULD DO the moment Michael Phelps returns home and gets some rest is give the guy a complete physical.

Better yet, a thorough biological check-up.

They should determine if he's, indeed, part human.

If he hasn't got fins, they should try and determine the quality and sharpness of his teeth, not to mention the enormity of his appetite.

This is a man after the man called the perfect host roused the brazen Los Angeles Times columnist Bill Plaschke normally sharp-eyed and calm, to swoon and explode with a solid sweet quip.

"Michael Phelps has DEVOURED the Beijing Olympics!" Plaschke exclaimed, his palms wet and his throat dry, upon seeing Phelps complete the superhuman feat of bagging a total eight (!!!!!!!) Olympic gold medals, all in record-breaking times.

There's never been anything like it and there definitely will never be another in our lifetime.

* * *

In case you missed (endlessly) them, that line about the dry throat and the sweaty palms was borrowed from a 1950's Bob Considine ringside classic, after the great American correspondent, a one-time Manila resident, witnessed Joe Louis knock Max Schmeling out in the first round of their world heavyweight championship bout at the Yankee Stadium.

That devastation, faithfully recorded by Considine from ringside, was as stunning as the striking of the Olympic.

Anyway, this old reporter, three others Mark Spitz skyrocketed to legend with his seven gold phantom feat in Munich '72, feared Beijing 08 would never be equaled, much more surpassed, in this lifetime.

Well, with that celebrated pool upheaval right here in burgeoning, dig-ulfed Beijing, there's nothing more left to say than, after having been born in the Age of Hindsight(ed), Mr. Phelps was lucky to catch only half of the original hairdo left open, the fleeting Olympic fun and fire in the Period of the Phelps Phenomenon.

Said Phelps teammate Brendan Hansen: "It's every part of sport. It's endurance. It's strength. It's pressure... He made the pressure part in the 10 Open, he won the 'fear' department, he won the 'pain' department.

'Great Fall of China' now an Olympic monument

BEIJING — THEY COULD HOLD THE Olympics here a hundred times over, and a bigger story might never develop for the Chinese. The first time hosts ever to win a gold medal on their own soil, almost all when the Olympic flame is extinguished this weekend.

The one that never happened.

Olympic champion Liu Xiang's stunning exit from the 110-meter hurdles Monday ranks as China's biggest newsmaker by far — a national blow the scope of which is hard for people in America, Liu, who runs a gold medal in that event in the 2004 Athens Games, got into the starting blocks less than pulled out with a leg injury.

"It's devastating," said student Sun Zhipeng, who was watching the race outside from his dorm room in Jiangsu University. "As soon we walked out the doors, everybody was talking about it."

Their reaction to Liu's ill-fated Olympics is perhaps the biggest indication that what's news in the US isn't always news in China, and vice versa.

The day before Michael Phelps reverses history, a huge event in Beijing was the plight of fellow American Marc Emerson, the jittery shooter who for the second year in a row had Olympic gold slip away in the last round of his 50-meter three-position rifle event.

Eight of the US gold-clinching swimmer Phelps, who won seven, came, including three relays, his mania in Beijing, had through the US media darling was a distant second to Liu to overnight-factor. Phelps was still a standout in the appreciative local crowd.

"I'm the street, people say he's not from this earth, he's from another world," added Zhang Xiangkong, an Olympic worker.

Monday's recess newscast on the state run CCTV station was half eulogy, half pep talk. Anchors reminded viewers that while Liu is a hero, he is also human.

"It's because China hasn't had a great history in track, and he made history in 2004," Henry Liu, an Olympic volunteer, said. "Because he's been, we understand."

Liu Shocking was in a subway tunnel speeding by an electronic ad of Liu — whose face is on everything from yogurt containers to billboards here — when his girlfriend texted him the news. Liu was among the few Chinese who said he was frustrated by fan's hype and fall.

"It's disappointing, because everyone's expected this for four years," said Cai, another Olympic volunteer. "A friend of mine has a old neighbor who said his wife wouldn't go buy groceries because she wanted to watch Liu race. A lot of people came from outside the city, took places in just to watch him race.

"And then it's, 'What? He's not running?'"

The women's quadruple sculls were a gold medal for the first time, " Cai added with a sigh, "But Liu pulling out will always be a thousand times bigger." AP, Times News Service

Big names advance in BMX event

REACHING FOR THE SKY Long known as the vagaries of the cycling world because of bad association, BMX riders now have their own legitimate playing field to compete in. Riders from different countries are competing for the gold in the Beijing Olympics.

BEIJING — MOST OF THE BIG NAMES MADE it through the early stages of the BMX Olympic finals competition Wednesday, but not without a few spills along the way.

Three-time world champion Kyle Bennett of the United States was caught up in a crash in the third run of the quarterfinals and didn't complete the course. But he had enough points from the previous two runs to make it into Thursday's semifinals.

There were easier wins into the next round for current world champion Maris Strombergs of Latvia and world championship bronze medalist Sifiso Nhlapo of South Africa.

But the best performances of the day was given by Mike Day of the United States. He went all three of his quarterfinal runs and will have the choice of the starting lanes in the semifinals.

"Not to sound cocky, but everything's kind of coming naturally," Day said.

Day's competitor Donny Robinson, the world's top-ranked male rider, also qualified from the same group.

Nhlapo has a strong chance of adding to the rough silver medal that South Africa has won in the Olympics so far.

"I'm content. This is the Olympics," Nhlapo said after finishing top of his heat. "Everyone has got their dreams in their heart."

The biggest name to fall was Luke Madill of Australia, who got caught up in a crash in the second run and finished last. His compatriot Jared Graves went through, however.

The women's competition was only at the qualifying stage, where riders compete singly against the clock, but it still had its share of crashes.

World champion Shanaze Reade of Britain came off on the first head in the first round of qualifying and recorded the slowest time.

But she came back with a vengeance in the second round, recording the second best time and ensuring a strong seeding for Thursday's medal competition.

"I don't know what happened. My husband at the videos and it's just one of those things," said Reade.

Asked if the crash in the first round had made her afraid for the second, she responded: "Never be afraid."

The top time was recorded by Anne-Caroline Chausson of France in the first run. But in her second run the world championship all Olympic medalist, in her final Olympic race, also had to deal with a crash, arriving at the finish with her clothing ripped and dirty although she was apparently uninjured.

"All the girls are so motivated because it's the first Olympics for BMX," said Chausson. AP

US STRUGGLING

Stars lay eggs at Bird's Nest

Absent Liu's presence to be felt anew in hurdles finals

BEIJING — TWO OVERWHELMING US FAVORITES LOST OLYMPIC GOLD in sight of the finish line Thursday, offering center stage to the unlikeliest of winners at Bird's Nest.

Sanya Richards, possessing a ballcrushing track suit for what should have been her finest moment, could not produce her finishing kick, and lost a seemingly certain title to Christine Ohuruogu of Britain 28 meters from the line in the 400 meters.

Shericka Williams also outran Richards in the closing stages, adding one more name to the American domination of the Americans in the short races.

For Ohuruogu, it was not only a bittersweet win Tuesday. The 2007 world champion was only recently cleared to compete in Beijing after winning an appeal against a lifetime Olympic ban for missing three doping tests in 2006.

Now, she only wants to be left alone.

"I just remember I am here and I have won a gold medal. That is all that matters to me right now," she said. In an increasingly unforgiving and doping mood, she fought the system and won.

In event 8 Richards took a huge lead and the Briton was only fourth, this version was not for giving up and came back against all odds.

For Richards, it was yet another loss at a major event. The dominating 400 runner has yet to win her silver into gold.

"Every championships I've been to I've come up short and it's not for want of trying," she said.

Gold-times, another great US athlete with elite appeal, had the 100 hurdles race clinched with two jumps left, but she sustained her spike into the hurdle and stumbled to the line, crossing with seconds of outrage before stumbling to the finish in misery.

This time, it was another American grabbing when Dawn Harper took over to win in a personal best 12.54 seconds.

Harper now hassles herself, waving the flag with the biggest of smiles while Jones lay curled up on the track, a mess of misery.

"It was very hard to pick myself back up for about 30 seconds," Jones said, sobbing. "You know today's hard and tomorrow's going to be harder."

A second unknown wrestle her country Harper only qualified by .007 seconds over the fourth-place finisher in the US trials.

The disastrous finishes for Jones and Richards-Ross now compared with Usain Bolt's losses through the games.

The 100-world record holder took an other world second the third-Year, running the 200 fast enough to keep his challenge for a golden triple going at the expense of his downtime duellengths.

The Americans also dominated US runners in the women's 200 semifinals, raising hopes an unlikely sweep will be disturbed during the weekend relays.

Jamaica is already hustling for United States 2-8 with both 100 titles, and Bolt is the overwhelming favorite for Wednesday's 200 final. It seems the only question is whether he will break Michael Johnson's world record.

And on Wednesday, he promised to run through to the line.

"I'm just going to run my heart out and hope for the best," Bolt said.

In seven races so far, he has not once pushed himself, even coasting to a world record in the 100 (9.69 seconds. Of have-time his previous mark.

Meanwhile the packed crowd at the Bird's Nest will again lament the absence of China's biggest star Thursday at the Olympics.

Six medal events are scheduled in the athletics competition at the Beijing Games, including what should have been the long-awaited showdown between Cuban world record-holder Dayron Robles and Chinese star Liu Xiang in the 110 meter hurdles.

But Xiang withdrew from his heat Monday, leaving Robles as the class favorite.

Liu took off out of the blocks, but when a second pain sounded for a false start, Liu walked off the track and back to the locker room. AP

Argentina routs Brazil, gains final

ARGENTINA'S Sergio Aguero kicks off Argentina's second-half onslaught by striking his first goal against Brazilian keeper Marcos (left) and Marcelo (right).

BEIJING — SERGIO AGUERO SCORED TWO second-half goals in seven minutes Tuesday and later set up another to lead Argentina to a 3-0 win over rival Brazil and into its second straight Olympic final.

Aguero opened the scoring for the defending champions by shooting in a left-side cross in the 52nd minute, then scored again from two meters (yards) on a nice from the right in the 59th. Aguero also set up a 75th-minute penalty kick that was converted by Juan Sebastian Veron.

It was the first victory for Argentina against Brazil in three years. It hadn't beaten Brazil since a 3-1 victory in a World Cup qualifier in June 2005.

"It's not a score you see every day when Brazil and Argentina play," Argentina coach Sergio Batista said. "Argentina had a great match, with intelligence and personality."

The Argentine players huddled near mid-field after the match and chanted to celebrate. The Argentines also did some celebrating inside the team's bus as it was ready to leave the stadium.

Argentina, aiming to become the first nation to win consecutive titles in 48 years, will now face Nigeria in a rematch of the 1996 final in Atlanta, where the Africans won, 3-2, in their first and only title.

Brazil will have to wait at least another four years to try to win its first Olympic gold medal. It is the only significant title the Brazilian world champions have never won.

The match in front of a crowd of nearly 53,000 at Workers' Stadium marked the return of the Argentina's top stars, former FC Barcelona teammates Lionel Messi and Ronaldinho.

Both players displayed their customary skills, but Messi threatened the most and created dangerous, scoring chances for Argentina. In his first Olympics, the midfielder set up Argentina's second and third goals, while 20-year-old Ronaldinho struck the post with a free kick in the second-half.

Messi saw a dangerous shot across the area in the 32nd, and had one of his best chances in the 41st after firing a shot that was barely cleared by goalkeeper Bruno.

Aguero's run past defender Bruno to open the scoring after Angel di Maria's cross, then easily added to the lead in front of the goal mouth after Gerardo Conty's set up. AP

More cleaning still needed for boxing

BEIJING — BOXING CHIEF WU Ching-Kuo's fight to make his sport a respectable member of the Olympic family is not won yet, according to critics of the scoring at the Beijing competition.

International Boxing Association (AIBA) president Wu launched a bold set of reforms after being appointed in 2006, including changing the rules for assigning referees and judges.

Taiwan's Wu, whose predecessor Anwar Chowdhry had been accused of allowing corruption to reign, said he was determined to sort all the controversies that have accompanied Olympic boxing in recent years.

"We want democracy in the world that this is the new AIBA and that we are clean, honest and transparent," Wu told reporters.

Boles, however, are still not convinced.

"When the new president came I thought he would clean up boxing but the same bad judges are still here," Thai amateur boxing president Yuvaty Jantarasri told Reuters. "Many countries have complained about the decisions here and I'm not happy."

Boxing is not the only one to mean. British coach Tony Edwards, for instance, called the scoring "absolutely stupid" after heavyweight Joe Murray lost to China's Gu Fa in a first-round bout.

American Demetrius Andrade, the world welterweight champion, was so incensed by the scoring that he walked out of the ring before the decision was announced after losing to South Korea's Kim Jung-joo in the quarterfinals.

AIBA rejected the criticism, saying all decisions so far had been fair and only two appeals, both turned down, had been lodged after more than 200 bouts.

A series of controversial decisions at the 1988 Seoul Olympics led to the introduction of the electronic scoring system, under which a point is scored only if three of the five judges press a button within a second to register it. Reuters

Lithuanians shatter Yao's cage dream

BEIJING—CHINA'S DISTANT DREAM OF AN OLYMPIC DEFENSE basketball medal was ruthlessly cast aside by Lithuania in a vibrant 94-80 quarterfinal win on Wednesday.

An enthusiastic Yao Ming led the game with 4:17 left after being shoved and banged for 33 minutes, drafting his team to the floor in frustration before burying his head in his hands.

"We said the big guys to not go, ing to hurt anybody," Lithuanian center Robertas Javtokas said. Between. "We pushed him a lot and didn't let him get inside.

"In Lithuania basketball is like a religion. I don't think it's like that in any other country."

Lithuania, three-time Olympic bronze medalists, will face Spain in the semifinals after Pau Gasol led the world champions to a 71-59 victory over Croatia.

Double and triple-teamed, Yao scored 19 points but spent much of the game bent over tugging at his shorts and gasping for breath after taking a hammering under the basket.

China's Lithuanian coach Jonas Kazlauskas criticized the referees for "inspective" tactics.

"They doubled and tripled on Yao—for sure i don't agree with some of those decisions," said Kazlauskas, who led Lithuania to Olympic bronze medal eight years ago.

"Sometimes it didn't look like basketball," the decisions Lithuania were making," he added. "We had a problem. We were not ready for this."

Yao, however, had no complaints.

"I think we got this far with our courage but we had our limitations," said the Houston Rockets center. "Of course we are disappointed but we have no regrets."

Team to beat

Point guard Sarunas Jasikevicius tallied five out of six free throws to lead Lithuania with 23 points.

Los Angeles Lakers forward Gasol led Spain with 20 points. Outside he said the United States were still the team to beat.

"It's hard to beat them but nothing's impossible," shrugged Gasol, whose team finished runner-up in the UK in Group B but were blown out, 119-82, by the Americans for their only loss.

"But if we meet the Americans we've got to face the challenge and compete against them."

Gold medal favorites the United States take on Australia while 2004 Athens gold medalist Argentina face a tough test against Greece later on Wednesday evening. Reuters

Last woman standing

Turn to page A13

Championship gold medalist Benjamin Kanloe of Canada.

If she gets past Ande, Rivera will fight the Korean, who is heavily favored to beat Abdulla Maalikoon of the United Arab Emirates.

"It's like an early battle for the gold," said national coach Rocky Gennaro. "Enjoy matches but on Rivera's opposing Bonnie for Olympic glory, you're a rare finalist."

Of the national team that also included Go and Donald Geisler in the 2004 Athens Games, Rivera seeks domestic to a medal.

The then 16-year-old Rivera fell a win delay of the silver, dropping a close 3-2 decision to Carrie's Eleanor Myendahlen and eventually calmed out on the bronze after losing to the eventuage in Hwang.

"She's ready," said Bennett. "She's unaffected even by the presence of the big names in her fight's disgrace abroad."

The Philippines failed to win a medal in the last two Olympics in Sydney (2004) and Athens.

Exodus out of...

Turn to page A13

around the Bird's Nest main Olympic stadium to share the excitement of the Games opening ceremonies, according to a report in the China Daily newspaper.

"That's a new record in Olympic history, nearly double the number of mobile users during the Athens opening ceremony in 2004," a spokesman for the telecom firm China Mobile said Tuesday.

He said about 110,000 conversations were made through the China Mobile network per hour.

BEIJING: There remained only two national athletes yet to see action in the Olympics, delegation officials are finding time even to watch them action on various venues here.

Many head for the Bird's Nest for the athletics competition in the morning and then to the Olympic Basketball Arena for the basketball matches, particularly those involving the United States "Dream Team" of NBA superstars, when duck tails.

"Kanoni lang talaga kami nakapanood (It only was that we attending here to see)," said an official who asked not to be named.

FORTUGAL'S Pedro Pessa (right) ducks and kicks against a leaping Yulis Gabriel Mercedes of the Dominican Republic during their men's taekwondo -58 kilogram bout. AP

Russian tops open swimming

BEIJING/XINHUA, CHINA—RUSSIA'S Larisa Ilchenko sprinted to a gold medal in the final stages of the first Olympic women's 10-kilometer marathon swim race Wednesday, overcoming a hurdle of blistering and scale-water grabbing that assembled roller derby in waves.

The Russian finished her grueling laps in one hour, 59 minutes, 27.7 seconds in the storm, shallow water at Shunyi Rowing-Canoe Park.

Exploiting the smooth conditions, Ilchenko doubled behind the leading British duo, Keri-Anne Hoyte and Cassandra Patten, most of the race before sprinting to a gold medal in the final 30 meters. She reached up to clout the yellow touchpad 1.5 seconds ahead.

Ilchenko's Underwater strategy has helped her dominate open water swimming since 2004, winning five consecutive 5k world championships and three consecutive 10k titles.

ILCHENKO

Payne, who got words stuck in her suit and on her face, took the silver in 1:59:40.7. Her British teammate, Patten, earned the bronze in 1:59:42.3 despite suffering from a large orange bump.

"The last 1,000 meters seemed like an other 10k. Every part of my body was aching," Patten said. "Your stomach is the size of a pea, because all the blood rushes to your arms, your body is saying, 'Stop' but your head is saying, 'Keep going.'"

There was a lot of crying, flagging and helmet wrestle exchanged after the 25-strong race.

Patten pressed angrily as fourth-place Angela Maurer of Germany, arriving her of dirty tactics.

"I had my legs pulled," Patten said. "You just squeeze because I didn't get to start looking up and country in third because of that negative. It's unsportsmanlike. I would never pull an opponent's legs so I would never assume someone would do it to me. But at the end of the day, I've got one of those (medals) and she hasn't, so that's enough." AP

RP coaches rue Go's scoreless stint

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE COMMON STAND WAS THAT Tshvedze Go should have at least scored a point in their Olympic soccer bout, but the national taekwondo coaching staff collectively accepted the fact that it just "wasn't for day."

National coaching director Stephen Fernandez said Go deserved to win a medal in Beijing with all the hard work and dedication he had shown through the years but was resigned to the reality that "it wasn't meant for him."

Fellow national coach Ricky Santiago mentioned that Go seemed to have won clear points in the bout against the Australian foe.

"I don't know the score (if the scoring was fair), but I thought Tshvon had a point there," said Santiago. "You saw (it)."

Both Fernandez and Santiago are confident international referees.

Two-time Olympian and now national men's team coach Roberto "Boy" Cruz said he had to focus on Go in the second round.

"There should have been a point there, I think Tshvon did his way best," added Cruz who was at Go's corner when he was a heroine to last year's World Olympic qualifying in Manchester, England.

Fernandez, who bagged a bronze when the sport was held as a demonstration event in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, said scissor referees can stop the fight and confer if they see any problem with the electronic scoreboard.

"It also happened in Athens, there were questions in the electronic scoreboard. But the referees have briefings at the start of the day to deal with the problems," said Fernandez.

Commentators including Asian champion Mesmerie del Rosario (for) the scoring which later led to the day prompted the referee officiating the Portugal-Dominican Republic fight to recommend the fight the fight.

Portugal had a close head shot, with two points, but it didn't register in the scoreboard until the corner withstands the point. It was already the sixth bout of the day.

THIS connection to the head of Ryan Carroll (left)... worth two points...should have scored for Tshvedze Go.

Beaming Shawn a heartbreak kid no more

BEIJING—SHAWN JOHNSON, THE smiling girl who loves to steal, loves to tackle and absolutely loves to flip, composed her own perfect ending in the women's Olympic gymnastics competition by winning a gold medal on balance beam.

After standing three times on the second step of the podium as a silver medalist, Johnson, 16, of Pleasant Dale Moines, Iowa, outdueled Iguchi Tuesday night with all-around gold medalist Nastia Liukin, the silver medalist on beam, and fused the national anthem as an Olympic champion.

"To finish my very last routine of my Olympic experience and finish with a gold medal, second step, was better than anything to the world," Johnson said. "To have gold on my favorite event, the one I've worked so hard on, it was a perfect ending to these Games."

Johnson scored 15.225 to 15.025 for Liukin as the two reversed their 1-2 finish in the all-around, won by Liukin. The 1-2 finish gave the USA Gymnastics women's program its seventh and eighth medals of the Beijing Games. Cheng Fei of China was third at 15.05.

Liukin and Johnson are roommates in the Olympic Village, and Liukin, who claimed her fifth Olympic medal won by a US female gymnast in the same Games, said she was pleased her roommate has a gold of her own.

"I was proud she finally got a gold medal, and we can both say we're Olympic champions," Liukin said.

Johnson, wearing a blue leotard with red accents, performed a flawless, insanely brave routine on the beam, with solid leaps and handings and easy a visible balance check. But she and her coach, Liang Chow, said the road to gold was particularly stressful.

While coping with a headache plus fatigue generated by five hard days of competition, Johnson and Chow were beam routines in practice and was on the verge of becoming gymnastics only times ever that, had they encountered during competition, would have cost her the gold.

"Mr (Chow) told me to stop, take a second, gather myself and try to calm down," Johnson said. "I was just too shaken up. The more mistakes you make in practice, the more you start worrying.

"I was getting too worried, but he took me out of it. I sat down and calmed down and got back and did one more routine, then went out (to compete)."

Chow, a former member of China's national gymnastics team who coaches Johnson in tandem with his wife, Liwen Zhuang, who choreographed Johnson's beam routine, said that since Johnson steadied her nerves, she performed with characteristic verve and energy.

"She showed confidence and difficulty," Chow said. "It was really a confident performance that she dreamt the audience and the judges. I am so proud of her."

Johnson had a lower execution score for the event with 9.225 to Liukin's 9.425 but had a higher score in difficulty at 5.8 to Liukin's 6.6.

New York Times News Service

THAT'S finally a gold that Shawn Johnson's holding.

World Sports Stacking Record Holder

STEVEN PURUGGANAN

joins Bonifacio Global City's Passion Rush

Steven Purugganan, the 10 year old Tri-Am World Sports Stacking Record Holder is in Manila for a special demo / exhibition on speed stacking as part of Bonifacio Global City's PASSION RUSH event on August 24, 2008, 4pm at the Bonifacio High Street.

His appearance is part of the city's line up of activities for Game Blitz, a series of dance games featuring speed cubers (August 17), speed stacking (August 24), and speed scrabble (September 7). Steven's participation in Bonifacio Global City's Passion Rush is supported by Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Why can't I come home?

– Ninoy Aquino

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IN THIS ISSUE
- Ayala firms list P10B worth of bonds in PDEx B2
- Foreign groups urge RP to further open economy B8

BUSINESS
Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carrel S. Mariano

BIR, Customs ordered to name inept collectors

Teves wants list before end of September

By Michelle V. Rosca

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO TEVES HAS GIVEN the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs until the end of September to submit the final list of underperforming revenue collectors who should be dismissed from service.

Teves, who also heads the Revenue Evaluation Performance Board (REPB), said he recently met with top officials of the BIR and the BOC and directed them to fast-track the ongoing review of their 2007 collection performance to determine the people responsible for their shortfalls last year.

REPB is an interagency body tasked with implementing the penalties and granting the rewards provided in the forced attrition law.

"I told them, [REPB and BOC officials] I needed the results of their respective evaluation on or before Sept. 30."

BIR, CUSTOMS A2

The iPhone 3G is here: Is it worth the wait?

THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED iPhone 3G

By Raul G. Marcelo

A MOBILE PHONE, an iPod music and video player, and an Internet device in your pocket. That about sums up what Apple Corp.'s iPhone is. And to everyone, the latest incarnation of Apple's mobile device—the iPhone 3G—becomes available in the Philippines through local carrier Globe Telecom.

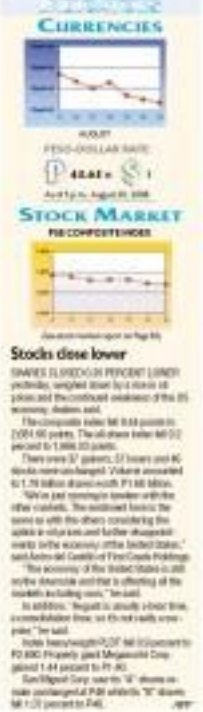
Will it be a hit in this teeny-tiny part of the world?

Representatives from Apple Computer South East Asia Ltd. in Singapore who flew in to Manila last week believe so. In fact, they hosted a breakfast of local journalists to tout-drive the iPhone 3G for a sweet price to the Aug. 22 official launch.

The iPhone 3G comes in two models...one 8-GB (in black only) and 16-GB (in black and white). The cost: only a few 16-GB black models (top of the line, so far).

Straight out of the box, one is easily awed by the elegance in its simplicity...a smooth, glass surface with one—yes, just one—button, the Home key. The sculpted design of the iPhone 3G fits more comfortably in one's hand than the first-generation iPhone (which has a sudden slippery silver aluminum back and is a bit heavier). It sports real metal buttons (plastic in the first-generation iPhone), hard and glossy plastic back and impressive 3.5-inch-wide multi-touch screen. At 4.5 inches long, 2.4 inches wide, less than half an inch thick and weighing just 4.7 ounces (133 grams), the

THE IPHONE B6



Stocks close lower

SHARES [LOSSES] ON PERCENT LUNDY yesterday, weighed down by a more or less the continued weakness of the [illegible] economy, dealers said.

The composite index fell 9.64 points to [illegible] points. The all-share index fell [illegible] percent to [illegible] points.

There were 97 gainers, 51 losers and 46 stocks remained unchanged. Volume amounted to [illegible] billion shares worth P1.66 billion.

"We've just remained in tandem with the other markets. The sentiment here is the same as with the others considering the upside in value and further disappointment[illegible] the economy," [illegible] said.

"The economy of the United States is still on the downside and that is affecting all the markets including ours," he said.

In addition, "August is usually a bad time, a consolidation time, so it's not really anyone," he said.

Index heavyweight SM Investments Corp. gained 1.44 percent to P1.40.

San Miguel Corp. common "A" shares remained unchanged at P68 while its "B" shares fell 1.01 percent to P46.

Ayala firms list ₱10B worth of bonds in PDEx

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuna

CONGLOMERATE AYALA CORP. and its real-estate arm Ayala Land Inc. yesterday listed ₱5.0 billion worth of bonds at the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. (PDEx), the country's fixed income exchange.

Ayala yesterday listed ₱6 billion in fixed-rate bonds due 2012 with a coupon rate of 8.825 percent, a spread of 0.75 percentage point over the bond benchmark. ALI listed ₱4 billion in fixed-rate bonds due 2013 with a coupon rate of 9.75 percent a year.

Listing on the PDEx will pave the way for the trading of the bonds in the secondary and public markets, highlighting the advancement of the secondary capital market for corporate debt.

"The advantage [of listing] is greater transparency and better pricing for bond holders," ALI chief Finance officer Jaime Ysmael said at the sidelines of the group's listing ceremonies at the PDEx office in Makati City.

PDEx's trading volume for government securities reached ₱20.469 billion in July, up 42 percent from the previous month's ₱20.74 billion. The rise in investment rates has dampened investors' appetite for bonds and this was reflected in the slight dip in volume in ₱20.79 billion in June taken from ₱20.84 billion in May. However, trading volume soared in August in July as investment rates stabilized and reversed to a declining trend.

According to PDEx, ALI will be the first listing of a new corporate bond issue on the fixed-income exchange. As the recently-filed infrastructure organized to ensure price discovery, transparency and investor protection, PDEx offers investors equal access to the best price for each of the fixed income securities listed on the trading board.

ALI's fixed income bond will be issued at 100 percent of its face value. Minimum subscription is ₱50,000 and in multiples of ₱10,000 thereafter, a move likely to appeal to retail investors seeking options for their long-term savings.

ALI treasurer Augusto D. Bengzon had said that the investor would support the company's growth plans focused on launching more residential units and steadily expanding its office segment and shopping center lines.

Ayala, on the other hand, raised ₱6 billion last year from its five-year peso bond float, with the proceeds used for refinancing (replacing expensive debt with lower-cost obligations) peso- and dollar-denominated debt and for general working capital. Over the years, Ayala has shifted its debt mix in favor of peso.

Pancake House profit up 7.16% in 1st half

RESTAURANT CHAIN OWNER Pancake House Inc. yesterday said its net income in the first half inched up 7.16 percent to ₱51.11 million from ₱59.06 million in the same period last year.

Income generated from the five higher revenue with the addition of a new restaurant brand, but bigger depreciation expenses associated from newly opened outlets tempered profit growth.

Pancake House said in its financial report that despite pressure from higher inflation, it was able to protect its gross profit margin in both its restaurant and commissary operations by generating higher increases in sales.

Pancake House also said that accounting policies applied to its foreign operations called for income generated in these policies required the recognition of capital expenses up-front. Excluding foreign operations, the Pancake House group's consolidated net income would have grown 37.49 percent.

Consolidated revenues increased 12.49 percent in the first half to ₱995.08 million from ₱884.76 million last year. Restaurant sales of ₱955.41 million increased 12.49 percent from last year's ₱982.63 million due to revenue contribution from the recently acquired Shakeopot Fusionator Inc., operating the Le Gonut de France brand and restaurants derived from newly opened outlets including those opened in Malaysia.

Consolidated operating expenses for the six months increased to ₱265.13 million from ₱211.26 million during the same period last year as a result of the group's expansion plans or opening of new outlets during the year.

Pancake House said the group continued to combat double-digit cost given the increasing prices of raw materials and supplies, rental and utility rates, as well as government-mandated wage increases.

Of the group's total first-half income, net income from restaurant brands Pancake House and Bonchi's bar and grill increased to ₱39.36 million from ₱38.8 million during the same period last year. Japanese casual dining Teriyaki Boy contributed a net income of ₱11.31 million, higher than last year's ₱8.81 million.

Chinese take-out brand Mingles incurred a net loss of ₱1.63 million this year. Newly acquired Le Gonut de France reported a net loss of ₱2.1 million during the five months ended June 30. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuna

IPVG net income up 16% to ₱50.51M

By Rita T. Olchondra

PUBLICLY LISTED TECHNOLIGHT FIRM IPVG Corp. posted a 496-percent increase in net revenue in the first half to ₱1.79 billion at its businesses showed resilience in a tough economic environment.

IPVG chief executive Enrique Gonzales yesterday said the company was on target to achieve its consolidated revenue target of ₱3.3 billion.

According to IPVG's consolidated mid-year financial report, the company's profit rose 18 percent to ₱50.51 million, net of a ₱45.4 million one-time financing charge due to a BPO acquisition in the United States. Net income growth would have been 131 percent without the one-time charge.

The company's BPO division contributed 48 percent to the total revenue. The economic incentive group accounted for 24 percent and the rest came from the content segment.

Gonzales noted that the company also grew its Ebitda (earnings before interest, depreciation and amortization) by 233 percent between the first half of 2007 and 2008.

"This shows how our core businesses are solid by our businesses. And we signed better overall performance in the second half because the one-time charge in our BPO business will not be there and our new acquisitions such as [content provider] Megaonline will be increasing revenues," Gonzales said.

He said IPVG was not really affected by the global economic downturn except in its more cautious manner on acquisitions.

"Acquisition is not our bis.) priority now, partly because our focus now is leveraging those we have acquired. Also, the kind of financing required for mega-purchases like those we tried last year are harder to come by in today's market," Gonzales said.

"We may not replicate the 68,414 percent year-on-year growth in our EPU sector, because that is a seeming from a very small base. But we still are doubling or triple-digit growth across all our businesses," he added.

Besides greater synergy among its BPO and content companies businesses, IPVG is counting on new premium games to be launched in the second half. First in the lineup is the much-anticipated casual game SBA Horse Dudes, which will be launched tomorrow.

Gonzales reckons that by local gaming standards, the game will be a "classic" and will set the tone for the company's performance for the year.

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ISSUE SIZE	A minimum of ₱4P3 billion
OFFER PERIOD	August 19 to 27, 2008
INTEREST RATE	Based on 5-year Treasury Securities Benchmark Rate
ISSUE DATE	September 01, 2008
MATURITY	September 2018
OPTIONAL REDEMPTION*	September 2013
MINIMUM INVESTMENT	P5-P500,000*
ROADSHOW	August 19 - Makati City August 21 - Cebu

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Didipio project gets $29-M funding

By Amy R. Remo

AUSTRALIAN MINER OCEANAGOLD Corp. expects to spend $29 million small the end of the year for its Didipio copper-gold project, despite the temporary suspension of some of the mine's major construction activities.

In a briefing, Darius Klinck, OceanaGold VP for corporate and investor relations, said the company had as far to invest $60 million in the Nueva Vizcaya copper-gold project. The project was estimated to cost $320 million.

The mining firm earlier announced that the cost of constructing the project had increased to $320 million due to project scope changes, foreign exchange movements, and inflation. It also provided a $30-million contingency allowance.

However, this had ensured on expected $195-million funding shortfall, thus prompting OceanaGold to suspend a number of mining activities.

OceanaGold had temporarily suspended a number of activities in the Didipio mine on June 24 to preserve cash until additional and supplementary funding for the project has been secured.

Klinck said the temporary suspension applies to the high cash expenditure activities at site, such as earthworks, pre-stripping and a number of the activities involving heavy equipment.

According to Klinck, the company is now looking at a variety of ways to obtain supplementary financing.

In particular, he said the company was looking at debt financing to service the bulk of the $195-million funding shortfall and the rest, through a joint venture with another firm.

While Klinck did not disclose any potential partners, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources earlier said that mining firms were interested in the Didipio project. These are Australian GoldFields and Sydney-based MineGold.

Peso slide continues

Minimal BSP intervention noted

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY DROPPED TO 45.74 to a dollar, its weakest in six weeks, but profit-taking by banks allowed the local currency to recover and close at 45.65, or P0.15 weaker than Tuesday's finish of 45.50.

Currency traders said there was very little intervention from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in support of the peso, which in turn drew buying support as dollar's sharp rebound against major currencies.

While the local currency previously depreciated sharply in reaction to global oil price hikes, it has now become more sensitive to the US dollar's rise.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank economist Jonathan Ravelas said the momentum continued to favor the dollar.

"There's some corporate demand (for dollars) especially as we near the end of the month," Ravelas said.

The peso opened at the day's high of 45.50 before hitting 45.74, its weakest since touching 45.84 on July 11.

"The rebound (from the day's low) was market-driven. Those with long (buy dollar) position, took profits," said Rizal Commercial Bank senior vice president Marcelo Ayes.

Ravelas said the market would likely test the 45.80, the lowest peso level seen on the first year.

The peso fell as much as 4.7 percent against the greenback since the start of the year, making it one of Asia's worst performing currencies this year.

Aside from the dampening impact of the dollar's perceived bottoming out for the first time in seven years, the peso is under pressure from strong demand for dollars during the third quarter, a season when traders usually increase their imports to prepare their Christmas inventory.

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Seaoil puts up additional 18 stations

By Abigail L. Ho

SEAOIL PHILIPPINES INC. has added 18 stations to its network of 239, and aims to open 26 more before the end of the year.

In a statement, the company said the 18 new stations were all added to the five-half alone.

Over the next four years, Seaoil planned to boost its station network to 500.

Of the new stations, seven were put up in Metro Manila, three in Northern Luzon, four in Southern Luzon, one in Visayas and three in Mindanao.

"We're exploring other expansion opportunities in the Visayas Islands and other strategic areas to Visayas and Mindanao where we currently capture about 3 percent of the market," Seaoil president Glenn Yu said yesterday.

Complementing the company's network of retail stations are its depots and storage facilities, including one in Mandaluyong City with a capacity of 16.2 million liters, blended with 1.1 million liters and Dipolog with 1.2 million liters.

The oil firm has access to a terminal in Subic, Zambales, with a capacity of 18 million liters, as well as a fleet of vessels capable of bulk distribution within the archipelago.

Seaoil plans to sell between 20 percent and 30 percent of its capital stock through initial public offering to finance its planned nationwide expansion.

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BSP, DTI to put up joint database on BPO

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas and the Department of Trade and Industry have agreed to step up efforts to gauge the fast-growing business process outsourcing industry by building a joint statistical database.

The BSP yesterday announced that it would share with the DTI relevant information on BPOs to harmonize reports and improve the measurement of the industry's contribution to the economy.

"The agreement will promote consistency in data reporting as well as ease the reportorial requirements for BPO companies," the BSP said.

Information to be shared would include data on economics, experts, foreign investments, employment and compensation.

Prior to the agreement, BPOs report their operations to various government agencies such as the DTI on accreditation and agencies such as the Board of Investments, Philippine Economic Zone Authority and other economic zone authorities, as well as the BSP. The information, in turn, is used by economic agencies and policymakers as basis for their assessment and decision.

"With the agreement, respective forms, definitions of terms, and contents are now consolidated and harmonized," the BSP said. Doris C. Dumlao

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee
2nd Tax Refund Administration (BAC-TRA)

August 21, 2008

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Lot 3 - PROCUREMENT OF SOFTWARE LICENSES (1 Desktop)
BAC-TRA Activity No. 2008-08

(Procurement of Non-Agricultural, Non-IT Commodities through 3Pcs 2007 Professional Education Agreement and the 10 Lot Multiple Award Scheme for Common Supplies)

Lot 3 - PROCUREMENT OF SOFTWARE LICENSES (1 Desktop) | BAC-TRA Activity No. 2008-08

1. The Commission of the Philippines (COP) has received a Loan from the World Bank (WB) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Tax Administration Reform Project (TARP) under the scope of the procurement of four hundred seventy-six (476) licenses of Microsoft Office Professional Edition Software and one (1) license of Microsoft Windows Server Standard Edition Software and other related services. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, dated May 2004, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in Section I of the Bidding Documents. Introduction to Bidders (ITB) 1.1.

2. The procurement will be conducted through the government's Small Value Procurement (SVP) procedures as specified in the Implementing Guidelines Part 2 (SVP) of the Philippine Annex. Under this SVP, bids will be invited from the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) accredited suppliers of the Philippines. Bidders may obtain further information from the National Computer Center during weekdays at the Procurement Committee on (632) 925-2401 local 4000 or 4001 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is Five Hundred Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Pesos (P509,975.00).

3. Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of the Bidding Documents from the address below and upon such payment to the BIR Cashier of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00). The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS).

4. The BAC will host a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 3, 2008, 10:00 AM at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, National Office Building, BIR Compound, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

5. Bids and other requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before September 10, 2008, 9:30 AM. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount as the applicable amount in a freely convertible currency as stated in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall not be accepted.

6. Bid opening shall be on September 10, 2008 10:00 AM at the Executive Conference Room, 2nd Floor, National Office Building, BIR Compound, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bidders may attend the opening of bids. Bidders' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance.

7. The BIR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to affected bidder or bidders.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for Tax Refund Administration (BAC-TRA)
2nd Tax Refund Administration Office (BAC-TRA)
BIR Compound, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100 Philippines
Telephone Nos. (632) 981-7000 local 4000
Telefax No. (632) 925-2401
e-mail address: bacrefund@yahoo.com.ph
website: www.bir.gov.ph

(SGD.) MARCELO A. RODRIGUEZ
BAC-TRA Chairperson/Director
(Date) July 8, 2008

(P1) July 21, 2008

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 007 Muñoz St., Makati, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPS)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
ACUMEN I & CO. (PHILS.) 15/F Equitable Bank Tower, 8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Pia Shah c/o Tomorrow	Recruiting Firm Specialist
BRIDGESTONE (PHILS.) INC. Lot 2-D, PEZA Zone, 8700 Ayala Avenue ext., Subic Bay Freeport Zone	Takashi Yoshino Japanese	Japanese Customer Support Staff
SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Smart Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Christopher Edward Hunt Australian	Consultant
ALPS PRIME CORP. 1503 Amorsolo Ave., Bonanza, Pandacan City	Chengli Shen Korean	Import and Export Manager
SM SUPERMART (SM) CORP. 8/F Home Base Shaw Boulevard, Zar Stories, Pasig City	Guangzhi Li Chinese	Operations Manager
HONDA COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 20/F Philippine Stock Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Eric Tyson Underwood Russian	Senior Data System Engineer
ORACLE (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION 10/F Pacific Star Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Joaquin Jose Aramburu American	Practice Director
YAO-AOKI INVESTMENTS GROUP HOLDING CO., INC. 2502 Antel Global Plaza, 6766 Ayala Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Daichi Yo Chinese	President
KOMATSU CUTTECHS, INC. 14/F Pacific Star Tower, 331 J.P. Laurel St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Eisuke Kaji Japanese	Vice Director for Old Operations
BAY-I ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACADEMY, INC. 2/F Cheers Bldg., Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City	Chun Hua Chang Korean	Marketing Manager
ARUSHA CYBELL CORPORATION 118 Rockhaven, Pampilona, Las Piñas City	Hyeokseung Yang Korean	Chairman of the Board/President
KAIHEIKING INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS CO., INC. #1 Fernando Amaldo, Bicol Blvd., Pasay City	Cuineng Huang Chinese	Plumbing Technician
M.S. YOUR LEADER CORP. Penthouse 3, Pearl of the Orient Tower, 1240 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Moon Ahn Korean	Sales and Marketing Officer

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

(SGD.) RAYMUNDO G. ADRIANO
OIC, Regional Director

(P1) August 21, 2008

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IX-A
2nd Flr., Anderson Bldg. II, Brgy. Pamac, Calarian City

August 19, 2008

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPS)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	JANSON LACERTA LIGHTING LTD., INC. Brgy. San Jose, Sta. Rosa City	Mr. Su Jung-Ik Korean	Marketing Consultant
2.	INTEL TECHNOLOGY PHILS., INC. Intel Corp. Gen. Trias, Cavite	Mr. Srivasukan Kartanan Malaysian	Transition Payroll Project Manager
3.	KPC INTERNATIONAL CORP. Brgy. Market, Sta. Rosa City	Mr. Kim Hee Park Korean	Executive Vice President
4.	ESSENTIALE FORTE (MNS) CORP. Brgy. Lumbangan, Nasugbu, Batangas	Mr. Meryl Koong Chinese	Operations Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO B. MARTINEZ, RX, CESO III
Regional Director

(P1) August 21, 2008

The iPhone 3G is here: Is it worth the wait?

Turn to page B5

iPhone 3G is simply sleek.

On the left side are the volume up and down buttons and the ring/silent switch that easily puts the phone in silent mode. On the top are the sleep/wake button and the flush bracket jack that now allows the use of any standard 3.5 mm headphones. (The first-generation iPhone uses a proprietary headphone jack, so with the earlier model. At the back are the 2-megapixel camera and the trademark Apple logo.

After almost a week tinkering with the iPhone 3G (browsing, downloading pictures, listening to music, watching movies, playing games, calling and texting), there are just so many things to like about it.

A major come-on of the iPhone 3G is that it is so easy to use. All applications — mail, SMS, contacts, Safari web browser, calendar, mail, iPod, iTunes Store, photos, camera, settings, YouTube, calculator and others) are just a tap away on the Home screen, no need to look for them in folders, subfolders and sub-subfolders.

The multi-touch screen is another cutting-edge feature of the iPhone 3G that will please just

ALL APPLICATIONS (phone, SMS, contacts, Safari web browser, calendar, mail, iPod, iTunes Store, photos, camera, settings, YouTube, calculator and others) are just a tap away on the home screen.

about anyone. Apple's innovative software lets the user control everything with the touch of a finger. Tap a contact to make a phone call, flick through albums and even pinch (or double tap) to zoom in or out on photos, e-mail or a section of a web page. Slide a finger to scroll up or down the contacts list or browse through the photo gallery. It's simply cool.

The built-in Qwerty keyboard is also smart, appearing only when needed, to give more room for viewing whole web pages, sorting more e-mails, looking at Google maps or watching a movie. The best way to use it though is to use the thumbs. Good from the intelligence of the keyboard, which makes use of a built-in dictionary that automatically adds the names to the contacts list to the dictionary, and new words...including Filipino words—into a dynamic library.

Did I mention an accelerometer, noncapacitative, the phone's ability to add panoramic functions, like spontaneous to search, and pasting a period and a space to begin a new sentence by double-tapping the spacebar?

The built-in accelerometer is another amazing feature of the iPhone 3G. When surfing the Net or viewing picture galleries, the accelerometer detects when the phone is rotated from portrait to landscape and automatically changes the contents of the display to see the entire width of a web page or a photo in its proper landscape aspect ratio. The built-in accelerometer also allows moving and tilting the phone to control the action in many game applications.

The iPhone 3G also has a proximity sensor that detects when the phone is near the ear when on a call and immediately turns off the display to save power and prevent inadvertent touches until the phone is moved away.

Business stuff like the iPhone 3G's calculator. Tap icon, turn it on sideways and it switches to a scientific calculator. When the add, subtract, multiply or divide buttons are tapped, a white ring appears around the button to let the user know the operation to be carried out. Tear, almost all mobile phones have, like the camera in the iPhone 3G and the memory attributed to the transformed into an expanded scientific calculator.

Syncing and managing content on the iPhone 3G is also a breeze. Anybody who has an iPod already knows how to sync an iPhone 3G...it works exactly the same way. Those in the habit of all digital contents of the iPhone 3G. When the phone is connected to a computer, it shows up in the iTunes source list and is ready to sync. It can sync calendar events from iCal or Entourage on a Mac or Outlook on a PC. It can sync the most popular e-mail systems—including Yahoo! Mail, Google, Gmail ADC, and even POP3 and IMAP e-mail systems. It works out of the box with Microsoft Exchange ActiveSync to allow users to synchronize personal and work e-mail. It also displays multiple e-mail accounts.

E-mail on the iPhone 3G is equally impressive, offering a viewing experience unlike any other mobile device. Websites rich in HTML format, e-mail looks and acts like e-mail on a computer. The phone also has built-in support for viewing attachments such as PDF, JPEG, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint files. It can also receive push e-mail directly from Microsoft Exchange.

Apple support is perhaps the most significant attraction of the newest iPhone. On the phone's home screen is an icon called "App Store." One tap and out comes a list of applications in every category imaginable...from games to business, education to entertainment, finance to health and fitness, productivity to social networking. The applications in the App Store have been designed to take advantage of iPhone 3G features such as the multi-touch screen, the accelerometer, wireless connectivity, GPS and location-based 3G graphics. There are now more than a thousand applications ready to download from the App Store, and many of them are free. The multitude of applications (which are also available for the first-generation iPhone and the iPod Touch) are simply mind-boggling ever since we at mobile debut.

The browsing capability of the iPhone 3G is absolutely impressive. However, browsing speed of the iPhone 3G (Apple says it's faster on Edge or the fast-generation iPhone) is dependent on 3G and Wi-Fi coverage. The stronger the signal, obviously the faster the web pages are loaded. On Edge, loading pages on the go can be as fast as 20-25 seconds, though certain spots (most probably with weak 3G coverage) can take 40 seconds to load. Browsing using Wi-Fi at home (with 3G off) was faster and more consistent, and most web pages loaded in about 10 seconds.

This is no publicity for Apple and the iPhone 3G. The one-time Apple fanatic is both dead and has, lately, lost it is not perfect.

There are still little things that many Filipino mobile users will find lacking in the iPhone 3G. For one, it does not accept text. mms cards nor can contents from other handsets be sent through Bluetooth. The iPhone's software is not forwarding function. Many phone users cannot just bring a spare battery to replace a drained one. (The iPhone 3G does not have an accessible battery compartment for easy replacement of a drained battery.) The memory life of the iPhone 3G is also shorter than that of the first iPhone, especially when 3G is turned on. (A full charge lasted about six hours of surfing using 3G/EDGE).

In the end, all these shortcomings, if one can call them that, will be overlooked by the trademark of functions that the iPhone 3G can do.

If there is one word to describe the iPhone 3G, "amazing" should be it.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Education
Regional Office No. IV-A
CALABARZON
Region

GOVERNING BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 01-A
Series of 2008

WHEREAS, ...

WHEREAS, ...

WHEREAS, ...

NOW, THEREFORE, ...

RESOLVED, ...

Adopted this ... day of ... 2008.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGION IV-A CALABARZON

DepED

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE II

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(PB-BAC)

Packaged of the Bidder	Regions	No. of Schools	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Lot No.	Complete Location of Schools to be Visited		
ARMM			
I		1,000.00	1,000,000.00
II		2,000.00	2,000,000.00
III		3,000.00	3,000,000.00
IV		4,000.00	4,000,000.00

BIR, Customs ordered ...

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Sealed applications for eligibility and bid documents for the supply and delivery of additional registration forms for the Resumption of the Systems on the Continuing Registration of Voters, shall be received at the Comelec Session Hall, 4th floor Palacio del Gobernador, Intramuros, Manila, on September 1, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. in the morning, or when a quorum, more and less, said sealed bids shall be opened in the presence of the members of the Bids and Awards Committee, representatives of the Commission on Elections, Commission on Audit, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Public Political Council for Responsible Voting, the participating bidders and the public, with an approved budget of Thirteen Million Seven Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Pesos only (Php 13,724,430.00), charged against the realigned appropriation for the Continuing Registration per Comelec Resolution No. 08-0699 dated April 29, 2008.

Bid documents and specifications may be obtained during regular office hours, beginning August 21, 2008 from the BAC Secretariat at the Property Division upon payment at the Cash Division, Commission on Elections, of a non-refundable amount of the Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Pesos only (Php 5,860.00).

A pre-bid conference shall be held on August 26, 2008 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, Session Hall, Commission on Elections.

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to nine per centum (1%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid, in the form of Cash or Manager's/Cashier's check payable to the "Commission on Elections".

Delivery schedules are indicated in the Bidder's Tender.

The COMELEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formal defect contained therein, and accept the lowest complying responsive bid that is most advantageous to the Commission. Notwithstanding the eligibility of the bidder, the Bids and Awards Committee shall have the right to make the verification of a bidder after submitting and before the execution of the contract. Should such verification prove any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statements, or any change in the situation of the bidder to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the Bids and Awards Committee shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice and find any obligation whatsoever on the part of the COMELEC for any expense or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

August 20, 2008

(Sgd.) J. THADDEUS P. HERNAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Reed Exhibitions' GlobalTRONICS 2008

GlobalTRONICS 2008 Provides Insights on Cost-Saving Manufacturing and Innovations to Help Asia Maintain World's Producer and Exporter for Electronics Manufacturing Status

BUSINESS

Foreign groups urge RP to further open economy

By Norma P. Dominguez

THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF Commerce of the Philippines yesterday renewed its call for the government to further open up the economy, saying there has been no follow-through since the liberalization efforts in the 1990s.

John D. Forbes, chair of the Americans legislative committee, said in an interview that American, along with other foreign chambers, has been waiting for government initiatives that would build on what was achieved during the Ramos administration.

"When asked what policies inherent in the Anti-Dum would to be further opened up, Forbes said it had been the group's stand that "all industries" should be liberalized.

"We hope to see foreign participation being allowed to maximize here," he said. "And then, we wish to be able to own land."

In the American's investment climate statement for 2008, the group emphasized the push for openness to foreign investments.

The Americans moved in on the the Foreign Investment Act of 1991, which spelt out a so-called "negative list" of areas where foreign investment is restricted or limited and which should be reviewed every two years.

These restrictions also were born a provision of the Constitution, which allows Congress to reserve to Filipino certain areas of investment as well as limit foreign participation in public utilities or their operations.

The most recent list, issued in December 2006, includes the practice of licensed professions such as engineering, medicine, accountancy, mass media, except recording and radio-television ownership.

The 2006 list also limits foreign ownership—generally at 40 percent—in businesses involving explosives, firearms, military hardware, nuclear chemicals and gambling.

"These restrictions are viewed as a significant factor in the Philippines' poor record of attracting foreign investment relative to neighboring economies. Waiver are not available under the negative list," the Americans said.

LAGUNA GOVERNOR VISITS SLEX PROJECT Santa Lucia Tollway Corp. president Isaac Dizon (2nd from left) explains the status of the P6.5-billion SLEX rehabilitation and upgrading project to Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro (center) and Laguna 2nd District Board Member Rudy Bolgado (second to left) during a visit to the San Jose Station in Calamba City.

Business goes on in Mindanao

(First of two parts)

AS A MINDANAOAN, I REFUSE TO say that the entire Mindanao is in trouble. Strawing, we cannot discount the fact that whenever ARMM is suspended, the whole of Mindanao bleeds.

We are angered and at the same time very disappointed with the way the peace issues and concerns are being handled.

There are just too many players here: government...military, politicians with varied interests who are all dipping their hands into the problems.

And the irony is that most of them are not from Mindanao or have never even been to any of the ARMM areas.

Passionate

I am very passionate about being here's Mindanao. I always tell business people I meet about how beautiful and how comfortable life is in Mindanao—that Davao City is a perfect blend between urban and country life.

Interesting I was interviewed for a magazine that will be published by Ayi Regonyo where 10 business women will be featured. I was asked by the writer whether I plan to expand my school businesses to Manila and without batting an eyelash, I told that my pre-schools, Tuntin Tots and JJB schoolhouse will be my only schools in Manila.

I will only expand in Mindanao because I believe in the potential of the island and besides, I am a Mindanaoan.

Despite the bad publicity that it is getting due to the elevated signing of the controversial memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Mindanao's business sector is upbeat.

As of 2007, Mindanao has a population of approximately 18 million and an inflation rate of 3 percent, much lower than the national inflation rate, which hit over 12 percent. Our balance of trade is $1.5 million; exports at $2.4 million and imports at $1.2 million.

Topping our agricultural exports are bananas at $401 million, coconut oil or copra , $366 million; pineapples, fresh and preserved, $160 million; dessicated coconut, $46 million and of course tuna at $943.93 million.

The top export destinations are Japan because of our bananas and tuna; United States, Netherlands, Russia, Taiwan, China, Malaysia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates and Iran.

Feeding Mindanao

The data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics showed that Mindanao produced increases in corn and rice production last year.

The data also showed that rice production last year increased by about 4.78 percent to 1,998,212 metric tons from 951,823 metric tons in 2006.

MINDANAWORLD

Ayi Regonyo-Ilano

The highest growth in rice production was registered in the Caraga Region with 12.85 percent, although Central Mindanao was still the biggest producer during the period, accounting for 26 percent of the total production.

Corn production, on the other hand, was at a high of 863,469 metric tons in 2007.

Production hikes

Again, Caraga registered the highest growth at 16.58 percent, but Northern Mindanao produced 7% percent of the total production, followed by Central Mindanao with 20 percent.

Production of rice and corn is expected to be sustained as the national government is rehabilitating irrigation systems in the island that will cover 2,000 hectares of rice fields.

The data also revealed that fish color production for Mindanao was at a high of P18.01 billion with about 968,975.00 metric tons. Highest contributor to the production during the period was aquaculture at 342,356.41 metric tons. In value, fish production during the first quarter this year hit P4,674.50 billion, although the biggest producer were the commercial fishing companies. To be continued.

Ayi Regon Ilano is an advocate for the development of the region. She is chair of Ayi Regon Foundation (www.ayiregonyoundation.com), president, Dili Gold Centre Alliance and Mindanao Bell Inc. Schools. Article(s) Mindanao Ayi. Report to: ayiregonyo@yahoo.com; E-mail comments to ayiregon@yahoo.com)

RESTAURANT & RETAIL
POINT OF SALE PACKAGES

POS

The new Ford Everest ICE. The movies go wherever you do.
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Take your family for an adventure with the stunning new Ford Everest ICE. Call 889-9288 or 843-3366 for more information.
Ford
Make Every Day Exciting

Cebu Pacific in sale mode

By Rex T. Ochoa Jr.

LOW-COST CARRier Cebu Pacific has ordered 3 more for 25,000 seats across 11 regional destinations to stimulate the limping travel market toward the end of the lean season.

Cebu Pacific said in a statement yesterday that its seat sale will run from Aug. 21 to 27.

The travel dates covered are from Sept. 16 to Dec. 17.

The promo fare does not include taxes and applicable surcharges, which range from $46.60 ($90 depending on the destination.

Cebu Pacific's move from now on to charter flights from Manila to Bangkok, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kaohsiung, Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Macau, Osaka, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei and Cebu-Hong Kong and Cebu-Singapore.

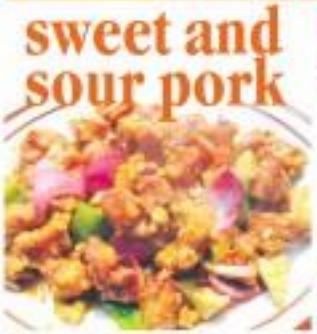
Passengers may book flights on www.cebupacificair.com.

LIFESTYLE Food

Editor Thelma Simeon San Juan

How to cook the best sweet and sour pork

Mister Lu's masterpiece is fruity, not sweet. Pork is not floating in sauce, just coated. How does he do it?



KITCHEN RESCUE

Maggie Aquino

CHINESE CULINARY INSTRUCTOR Mister Lu Ling Yu was based in Hong Kong when he was a chef until he left in (you-make-30-years-ago-with-a-Chinese-Filipino, Connie Lu, married boy and moved to Manila.

When reader Marilen requested for a recipe of authentic sweet-and-sour pork she'd like to cook for her 50th birthday (something she couldn't seem to get it right), I figured there would be no better person to ask than Mister Lu. Marilen wanted to know how to get the meat and what ingredients to use.

When I arrived at the Chinese Culinary Arts Center, the Lus had just finished giving their Moon Cake lessons. There were moon cakes everywhere.

Lu still makes some of the best moon cakes, using no less than the finest ingredients which he imports. This year, he has added varieties and even imported his beans from Hong Kong.

Among his new inventions are dried mangoes and olive nuts. My personal favorite this year is green raisin, embedded in rich Lin Yong (lotus paste), which gives fullness and

MORE RECIPES, C2

South Africa's most awarded wine now here

By Margs C. Enriquez
Contributor

IT IS BELIEVED THAT WINE consumption is among the signs of the times. "When the economy is good, everybody goes out to drink to celebrate. When the economy is bad, everybody goes out to drink to forget. It's only when the economy is wishy-washy that people tend to hold on to their money and not spend so much. We tend to like the extremes, but we must prefer that everybody is happy and drinking for a nice reason," said wine connoisseur Stevenie Dovey as he sipped his dessert wine.

MORE D2

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Nouveau buffet festival

DINING OUT

FIESTA NOUVEAU BUFFET FESTIVAL
Sunset presents various exotic garlic sauce, braised beef stuffed with mixed herbs egg, vegetable egg omelette, boiled quail egg and bean curds rolled in beef, grilled thai mixed noodles with beef, chicken, roasted vegetables, mixed vegetables with fish and chicken fillet, ancho fried chicken legs stuffed with red cabbage.

The Sunset Buffet Social Bar offers Kuwaiti Kabsa, Kimchi Sarciago Salad, Mixed Greens Mako Kimchi Cube Exotic Kabsa Mak, Go Kibbi and Kimchi Ice Mako Sunset branches are located at SM Megamall, Glorietta II, Podio Ilaza, EDSA, and Ayala Avenue. Call 7220126, 6381722 or 8729849.

Malaysian food promo

The Heritage Hotel Manila presents "Malaysia...A Tapestry of Asian Tastes and Traditions" until Aug. 31 at Riviera Cafe. A total media buffet dinners who can serve three day, two nights stay with breakfast for two at Kota Kinabalu Hotel and one Cebu Pacific round-trip ticket Manila-Kota Kinabalu-Manila; or three-day, two-night stay with breakfast for two at Royale Bintang Hotel Kuala Lumpur, and a three-day, two-night stay with breakfast for two at Grand Millennium Hotel Kuala Lumpur in the Malay State. Call 8548888.

Evertrest's new menu

Evertrest Golf Club Resort's Al Patio Restaurant at Evertrest launches a menu by chef Michael Jordan from Newcastle, England. The menu has Cajun Fish Sausage and Traditional French Onion Soup, Lamb Tuna Sea Food Set I, Roast Vegetable Tart, Chicken Stuffed Chicken Kiev on a Bed of Ratatouille, Butter Poached Salmon, Tiramisu and Berry Samosas. Located at Km. 72, Batulao, Nasugbu, Evertrest is less than two hours drive from Manila. Call 7128703 to 06 or e-mail salesdept@evertrestgolf.com.ph.

Barbecue feast

Hulo Hulo Island Barbecue Feast has pork loin lechon, yakitori, rib fingers, short plate, Island Belly Chops and Javanese fried chicken special, Hawaiian coconut crab, fried local fish, Subbin's giniki and garlic corn, grilled Hawaiian pineapple steak, Bahama bun, sashimi with shrimp and tomato rice, Chicken chicken gyoza, chicken nakka, crab and taro croquette, crab omelette, cucumber pineapple salsa. Hulo Hulo is at Whitegate, Filinvest City, Alabang. Call 7712201 or 7712386.

BOUNTIES OF THE SEA
Choo Buddy Family Seafood Feast has sea crabs, lobsters, fresh water prawns, shrimps, New Zealand Mussels, clams, sea caper, oysters, crab, baby pecorino...all simmered in seafood broth and served with house favorite - Chow Chow Garlic Sauce and American Grill is at The Ledge, 4/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Ortigas (ext. 6365679) and Bit Bonifacio High Street, Taguig (856-6195).

ALL WAGYU
The Fireplace Grill at Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila has unlimited premium grade 9+ Wagyu beef from Australia. The selection includes Wagyu Beef Carpaccio and Tartare, Grilled Wagyu Striploin with Gorgonzola Croquettes, and Wagyu Sliders. The Fireplace, on L-1, of Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, offers Australian Wagyu beef until Aug. 30. Call 245-1234.

YUMMY STUFFED CRABS
Crabs best mixed with onion, bell peppers, onion and special herbs and spices, then cooked and stuffed in crab shell, served on a bed of steamed tomatoes and cabbage. Have a taste of this at Qumbo. Enjoy its other dishes like Four Seasons Salad, Cajun Fried Chicken, Barbecued Shrimps, Fish and Chips, Seafood Jambalaya and Seafood or Chicken Gumbo. The restaurant also serves pizza and pasta, breads and desserts. Qumbo has branches at the 2/L, Mall of Asia, 3/L, Robinsons Manila Midtown, and at the 3/L, SM City The Block, North Edsa. Call 8460238, 4020836 and 5671921.

Steaks and oysters

Mo-tai's fine tribeca serves 20 Acqua and Australian prime and choice cuts. The restaurant has a full wine and cocktail bar which showcases Pick-Pick, San Figz and Bloody Mary. Sam Delacruz is at 86 Benavidez High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 8564555.

New way to relax

Celebrate your birthday on a Tuesday and treat your friends at the 2nd/F Bar of Bellevue Hotel. It has a complimentary re-Birthday pitcher, crowned double and beverages from 8 p.m. to 12 mn when you present a valid ID indicating your birth date. Every Wednesday of the month a ladies' night out, with free select cocktails from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Enjoy the bar's local beers, wine and spirits at happy hour from 5 to 8 p.m. Call 7711888.

NEW SPANISH WINES
Bar Uno 6262 Spanish Reserve and Rioja second wine list that includes Catalan Miguel Torres 2004. Its aroma of cherry and black currant makes it a fine complement to the house's jamon y salchichon. The bar and restaurant is at Unit 101 Podium Town Center, Real Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Call 8885736.

How to use good cooking fuel for great food

LAMB SHANKS THAT MELT IN THE mouth, a hearty seafood bouillabaisse and other delectables have made Greenmarket on the G.E. Ext. Ave. Center in Bonifacio Global City renowned in Metro Manila.

According to executive chef Mary Aubrey, the 90-seat restaurant is all about consistency.

"When they like one dish in your restaurant, they will keep coming back for it and expect it to be excellent each time," says the outspoken who specializes in French-inspired cooking.

In his choice of ingredients, aromatic and energy source, Chef Aubrey has been consistent in selecting the finest tools and the most efficient cooking fuel, piped in gas. Greenmarket uses liquid petroleum gas piped into the five One Centers and the rest of the emerging business district in Taguig by Bonifacio Gas.

"Piped-in gas allows you to regulate heat more precisely and cooking how much more effectively than other sources of energy," he says. Broiling steak with it is the leader, for instance, demanders cooking flame that can easily be controlled so the liquid meat's tenders and does not boil to barely. It also demands a constant and continuous supply of gas. The best way to ruin braised meat, after all, is to let stewing liquid to turn cold, a possibility when cooking with gas cylinders that run out suddenly.

Charlotte also discovered that cooking fuel gas, which has some of nature's disinfectants, neutralizes bacteria that can easily be spread as soon as it this odor have been developed. "It's a very expensive ingredient and you don't waste it to have to liquid fat," says the chef who has cooked with gas all his culinary life.

Many new restaurants are opting to open at Bonifacio Global City where Bonifacio Gas maintains an extensive piped-in network that meets global safety standards. Some cost owners and tenants consider the piped-in gas as a factor when choosing where. LPG offers a savings of about 40 percent compared to electricity.

LAMB Shanks

CHEF Mary Aubrey of Greenmarket restaurant

South Africa's most awarded wine now here

NEDERBURG Sauvignon Blanc with pan-Asian salad

NEDERBURG Cabernet Merlot with classic black angus steak

HUNT'S Sons: Louis T and wine consultant Sharon Davey

of plum chewy and rich spice.

Nederburg's Cabernet Merlot, a South African specialty, calls to mind the deep scents of tobacco leaf and mocha on the nose balanced by the lightness of fruit and the subtlety of vanilla on the palate.

"The Cabernet Merlot is a specialty. It's in the background chewy and fig notes. It's like early wine in the world that accompanies you of roasted beasts," said Davey.

On the soft tastes of Cabernet Merlot, Davey explained that as one of South Africa's largest wine producers, the company takes pockets from various vineyards to produce the best quality wine.

"The Cabernet Sauvignon grape has a thick skin," Davey said. "The flavor can get quite harsh and too complex. It matches the notes, you need a merlot that is a thin skinned and soft grape. It has blueberry jam and sweet cinnamon notes. It is a wine that you'd want which finds in which the cabernet sauvignon, you settle it down. This is a beautifully smooth but full bodied red."

"It doesn't have too much of the sharpness of the cabernet, yet it's robust with the lightness of the merlot."

The elegant blend was the perfect accompaniment to the luscious steak.

Davey added, "All grapes from ZBA with other fruits, vegetables and herbs. Chenin-our has aromas of pineapple while the Sauvignon Blanc always tends to have green pepper. When it spoon, it tends to ripen and gets guava notes. Riesling always has a mineral background. It's sweet. It doesn't have much residual sugar but it has residual fruits coming on through it. Chardonnay tends to be more papaya and pineapple tropic."

The star of the show was the Nederburg Noble Late Harvest, touted as the best dessert wine at the International Wine Challenge in London. Its name was derived from the fact that the climatic conditions give rise to a particular fungus called botrytis cinerea which increases the sugar content and intensifies the flavors of the grapes. "It's got a more viscous note," said Davey.

The high quality wine was matched with the chocolate mille feuille, a rich dark and white chocolate mousse layered with chocolate flakes and accompanied with fresh fruit sauces and velvety chocolate sauces.

Ambience

The wine dinner was enhanced by flower emblems. Davey pointed out the symbolism in details that made the environment of world-class standard.

"If you want a good piece of meat, you have it cooked rare. It's got that mellowness, smooth, high-quality meat. Some restaurants eat their steaks much too thin. An inch or so is no big deal, but it's really medium. A nice thick piece of steak allows you to savor a beautiful inflated inside," he said in his usual style.

"I like the way the sauce was served on the side. Some restaurants drench the steak with the sauce. You never get the chance to taste the meat. We have the chefs to put on the sauce as much as we want or as little as we want to. That's the sign of a high-quality restaurant that allows you to mix and match for yourself."

Diners also commended on the staff training. "In most restaurants, the staff tends to be confident with food menus but the wine menus take a lot longer time for them. They need to understand how to pronounce the names. They need to be confident in serving wines. When they come to work in a five-star restaurant, they need to train. Here, the staffers feel confident in what they are doing. They speed with sincerity, and by cots."

Aside from the choice lines and Reisner, Davey also noted the correct wine glasses. "A lot of restaurants use little wine goblets which are fine at home. When you're in a restaurant you want to be able to swirl the wine, enjoy it and relate with the wine."

Over the years, Tomasi has cultivated a sophisticated palate and an eye for detail which is reflected in his businesses. Despite the rising cost of living and stiff competition, Hunt's management is determined to be thriving. The experience with their stronger restaurants have been keeping the establishment lean. Menus down to the last detail and their chairs to his newly remodeled mezzanine designed by mother Antonette.

The last that Hunt has reached its ninth year, longer than the regular restaurant life span, is occasion to celebrate.

How to cook the best . . .

From page D

texture to the rich creamy paste.

Often the kitchen we went with Mrs. Go, her loyal wife and labor-mine with daughter Phebe.

As we sat down, and with a warm voice filled with authentic cold cut, how he makes sweet and sour pork.

I was understood what many find him in munching; in fact, there it no reason to be intimidated. Master Lo's just like sure: he is and you gotta love him for it! He has a wealth of knowledge.

It is sad to think he is retiring soon. Planning to take full advantage of what he has to offer, I myself am seriously considering taking secret cake lessons. My students tell me his Chinese meats are also very good. So is his Peking duck.

In any home is not important, in fact, he was totally reluctant to have his photos taken. "In me, it is enough that I am able to touch and my students able to cook what they learned."

Here is Master Lo's Sweet and Sour Pork. He is different from what we're used to. Salty and not sweet, not a bright orange but rather deep orange. He uses wrong vinegar in type of Chinese vinegar that is so strong you can't even whiff it), and instead of egg whites, he uses his pork in eggwash.

To Marilen, happy birthday, girlfriend!

Sweet and Sour Pork

Cut **400 g pork kasim** into thin strips. Slice into thinner 2 cloves garlic and make the meat pork to look better.

Marinate pork with ½ **tsp meat tenderizer** (optional), 1 **egg yolk** (yolk makes pork brighter), 1 **tsp sugar**, 2 **tsp light soy**.

Mix well.

Prepare the rest of the ingredients.

Simmer. Blend the 3 tsp cornstarch.

For the sauce: Slice the ends of 1 **red onion** (use only the ends of the onions for the sauce and reserve the rest for later); 4 **thin slices of ginger**; 3 **shallots**, smashed; 3 **cloves garlic**, unpeeled and smashed; 2

GREEN Rainforest Cafe and more, Chinese cuisine from Master Lo

vinegar, 4 **tbsp ketchup**. Adjust vinegar and sugar according to your taste.

Strain.

Make the vegetables:

2-3 cloves garlic, 1" **ginger**, cut into thin strips; **few stalks green onion** white part, 2 pcs **bamboo shoots**, diagonal slices, 1 **red onion**, quartered

Cut pork with 5-6 tbsp cornstarch.

Deep fry until golden.

Drain pork.

In a wok, add 2 **tbsp oil**, add vegetables

Add 1/3 of sauce.

Add a splash of rice wine.

Add **cornstarch water** to thicken sauce.

Add pork and mix well.

Master Lo says good flavor and nice pork should be: sweet, sour and hugs not enough. Color should be appealing. And it should not be floating in sauce but naively only coated in it.

Call Chinese Culinary Art Center at 5212720, 5303053 for class schedules and group rate orders.

Email the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

Food summit to reveal culinary, baking secrets

WANT TO LEARN THE SECRET secrets of some of the country's top chefs and restaurateurs? Those and more will be revealed on Aug. 29 during "Kitchen Revelations," a whirlwind food summit at the Dusit Thani Hotel Manila's Apulia Center, Makati.

Presented by F&B World Magazine, "Kitchen Revelations" will showcase the latest food and beverage trends, culinary and baking techniques, assistance in wine appreciation, food safety, customer service, plus the launch of "Chefs' Secrets and Favorite Recipes," F&B World's first cookbook featuring Filipino and Asian-inspired recipes from some of the country's up-and-coming young chefs.

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Cinnamon apple fritters

PDI LIFESTYLE KITCHEN-TESTED RECIPE

By Norma Chikiamco
Contributor

WONDERING WHAT TO SERVE for breakfast? Try cinnamon apple fritters. They're almost like pancakes, but sweet. With lots of fruits in the batter, they're healthier, too. These fritters also make a great snack.

For the apples:
3 small or 2 large apples
2 tbsp sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
For the batter:
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
½ + 2 tbsp sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
2 eggs
¾ cup milk
1 tsp vegetable oil
2 cooking oil
Powdered sugar, optional
Powdered sugar, optional

Peel apples and slice thinly into slightly larger than bite-size pieces. Combine sugar and cinnamon and toss with the apples. Set aside.

Make the batter. Sift together flour, sugar, cinnamon, baking powder and salt.

In a separate bowl, whisk eggs until fluffy. Blend in milk and vegetable oil.

Combine flour mixture with egg mixture, stirring gently until well blended. Fold in prepared apples.

Heat cooking oil in a skillet until it begins to sizzle. Scoop about ¼ cup of the batter into the hot oil and fry until bottom is golden brown. Flip, cook for 1 minute, turn over to brown on the other side.

Remove from pan using a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels.

If desired, serve with pancake syrup, or dust with powdered sugar before serving. This is best eaten when freshly cooked.

Makes about 25 medium-size fritters or 25 small fritters.

D.I.Y.

CINNAMON apple fritters have somewhat newly cooked

Tips

- Make sure cooking oil is very hot before using. To test, drop a piece of bread cube into the oil. If it sizzles, the oil is hot enough to use.
- Remove bits of browned batter from the oil, using slotted spoon, before putting in another batch of fritters.
- You can also use sliced ripe bananas instead of apples.

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Cyrille Soenen to open his own bistro

CYRILLE Soenen

ALAIN Rayo

COUNTRY COOKING

Hicky Resiz

CYRILLE SOENEN RECENTLY ANNOUNCED that his will no longer be executive chef of a big hotel. He will be chef of his own bistro to be called Chez Cle (nickname, pronounced "see see").

It will be at one corner of Jessie Avenue (Patsy Reid) in Makati where it will reside in a small boutique hotel. He isn't certain yet as to the opening date but, he said it could be in August or September.

On the first day of August, another bistro opened in Makati. Called La Regalade (828 Arnaiz Avenue), it boasts a two-star Michelin chef, Alain Rayo. The place just sort of sneaked up on the restaurant scene because **the eatery people** I asked didn't even know it's one part of the dining landscape.

But what is a bistro? I had to consult a book edition one section I tried to define it. "Remembrance of Things Paris" is a compilation of 65 years of Jeanette Mapelsen writing about the city, mostly dining, although the bistro romance article is a plea for bistro character, like me.

Joseph Wechsberg writes how a bistro is man's home away from home. To be a neighborhood café where the main congregate and speak their minds. They know what food to expect, the owners are usually husband and wife, one running the kitchen and the other the dining room, and who hosts their own wines.

But that has changed through the years. The word has found its way open to plastic. Today, these restaurants are notwithstanding for the more popular bistros in Paris. Some are now called small-chic restaurants rather than eateries.

I was lucky to be in Paris some years ago, and must go to place for me was a bistro. My mind is there. I can't remember the names now, but I do know what a grand time we had there.

One was recommended by our French guide because he probably knew that we would overeat at the sight of hot chocolate poured over our profiteroles.

The next one we discovered by chance of, to our best I can of the First Drink near the Notre Dame Cathedral, in one of the side streets. Shuttered and with parasol on the bench of berries and cheese. The wines were from their underground cave and our dessert was yours, that was still warm because it had just been baked. I still remember the feeling of warmth and wonder at such simple food that was so good.

The third one we visited on our last day in the City of Lights. I remember reading that it's known for its beef tidbits. Out of the restaurant, there was a tempting display of fresh seafood, so we had the assorted fruits de mer on crushed ice. It was a sad way to say goodbye to Paris.

Soenen's menu

Cyrille recently gave a glimpse of what he would be cooking at his bistro to two friends, who reported afterwards that they probably gained 10 pounds that day together.

He had a pork head terrine for three, spread on fresh baguette slices. There were two items that seemed on the list of what they were to have that day, but Cyrille added homemade sausages and cheese, a hen stuffed with goat's cheese that was whipped with walnuts and truffle oils. Then he cooked pavoni lingue, a thick aromatic soup rich in prawn bisque and herb shallot sauce. He ended **that culture** fall lunch with roasted pineapple with rum sauce.

Cyrille said he's glad he's cooking again. Being executive chef takes one away from the kitchen because of paperwork, like having to manage costs and staff tasks. It will be a challenge to have the owner daily once more, but he seems as much happier because of that.

2-star Michelin chef

Unlike Cyrille, Rayo hasn't stayed long in the country. He came here first to see whether it's possible to open a branch of his La Regalade bistro in Venezuela. But, decided to do so with former banker and restaurateur Babot Quirico who Rayo calls by his first name, Frederic. While the bistro was being built, he would come and go.

So to his Michelin stars. Rayo earned those while still in France, the first one in 1978 at his restaurant in Abbeville. The next one was in 1992 when he bought the restaurant La Belle Epoque in Chantilly. He moved to Vancouver because he wanted a more tranquil place for his family.

Having the stars, however, requires a chef to a more severe standard eating. So there will still whether he menu composed of traditional bistro food such as pork elbow, eggplant caviar and beef bourguignon will your the list.

Beef or to the wines, there can be seen or two refrigerated ones, the more modern take on the traditional underground set of French bistros. Rayo also approved the bistro design where the colors are predominantly brown and beige.

The stocked blackboard where the specials are written is a pleasant sight in the kitchen display area. And the menu is the chef's eyes selection—only French. Its told us.

Chef Rayo would be here all the time, but will leave Mr. Venezuela and chef to keep on training the local staff. He will be returning soon, he said.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bernie G. Velarde

Married!

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA — THERE WAS MUCH HANGing: Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi are married, according to reports. In the biggest celebrity union since California legalized same-sex marriage, DeGeneres, 50, and de Rossi, 35, wed Saturday night in an intimate ceremony at their Beverly Hills home. People and Us Magazine reported. A publicist for the Emmy-nominated People's report said pics are bidder sensitive. More in Beatles, page B6.

A win worth P5.7M

It was a battle with herself, 'Pinoy Idol' says

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rudy Esperas

HER EXPERIENCE WITH "PINOY IDOL," IN the words of grand champion Gretchen Espina, was "no sight-no-sound battle with myself."

It was a battle that paid off well. Sure, Gretchen brought home a total of P5.7 million in prizes—P1 million from AM Idols, a condominium unit, a brand new car, a P1-million recording contract with Sony BMG Music Philippines and a television contract with GMA 7 worth P500,000. The talent search was co-produced by GMA 7 and Freemantle.

The 30-year-old former member of the OP Singing Ambassadors bested five other hopefuls—Jayson Ramirez, 23, and Rara Chavez, 20.

"Pinoy Idol" debuted on April 5 on the Kapuso network after a series of nationwide auditions for singers. Contenders performed in four programs and faced weekly eliminations via public SMS voting.

"We all fought hard," said Gretchen. "I will draw my supporters (but I deserve) their confidence. I will strive to become the Idol that they want me to be."

Happy runner-up

After the lift finale on Sunday at the SMX Convention Center of the Mall of Asia in Pasay City, runner-up Jayson told Inquirer Entertainment that she was happy for her roommate. Jayson said they became close to Gretchen after "Hell Week," which saw

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FIRST: "Pinoy Idol" winner Gretchen Espina, left, and runner-up Jayson Ramirez

JUDGES Dyan Alvarado, Jolina Magdangal and Wyngard Toray

TOP TWO: Finalists Gretchen, Rara Chavez, and Jayson in recording studio

Tonyboy's formula for a perfect match

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

By Marinel R. Cruz

"IT'S THE PERFECT MATCH."

This is how ABC 5 chief executive officer Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco describes the block-defense partnership between the network and MPB Primedia Inc.

MPB Primedia Inc., radio home to DJ Mom

TONYBOY R. (5)

And now, the real work begins

THE ALTERNATIVE TITLE FOR THE AUDItele could be, "Keeping It Fresh," to be, keeping one's performance fresh and sure for every audience that catches the show at any point during its run.

Right now, I'm a month into this extra-mostly run of "Cinderella." That sounds a still quite new... the show is under my belt enough, thanks to weeks of daily rehearsals, plus the three and a half weeks that we've been running in the Newcover, there are eight months left before I enter my glass slipper. So good.

BACK STORY

Jose Sabroza

Good, bad

There is a lot of good, as well as a lot of bad, that can be find from doing a long run of the same show. Let's see... nine months... that adds up to roughly 288 performances... 108 waltzes... 288 entrance chains (Mrs... 1,728 chaine (shalay) turns... 864 quick costume changes... 1,152 glasses of water consumed... and tying up and down lots and lots of ropes. Whew!

But more seriously...

I have an interesting relationship with long runs... the very first one, which also happens to be the longest, was for "Miss Saigon" in London. That lasted a full year and three months, and I honestly have no idea how I came out of it with my sanity intact, enough to see me to one more year of the same show, this time in a new city, with new people. By the end of that year in New York, I was ready to leave the show. My inner diva knew boots relentlessly drawn, nor shoes by choice but by circumstance.

Recollections

Which brings me to my recollections and some reasoning on how an artist keeps a show fresh for any length of time. I mean, you take it down anyone close to you to do the same-same thing everyday for one year, twice on Saturday and twice on Sunday), maintaining a high level of performance and emotional commitment? What good could possibly come out of this repetitive motion? Or could a figurative stupid turned meritorious be the only result?

First off, the good.

One limitation shared by a few colleagues is that a short run doesn't always give an actor ample opportunity to dig deep into the heart of his or her character. By the time you're sending a breakthrough, the run is over—leaving you with little chance to figure things out. I've found myself awake late at night after a run is over, inevitably going through a previous performances... and then how! I find something that I could've done onstage that I didn't do, and find just plain me frustrated and mad. No, not angry. Mad.

The great luxury of a longer run (at least five or six months) is the abundance of opportunities to get things just right. Ideally, those breakthroughs happen in the rehearsal room, but a lot of times, they take place after a few months

Nine months equals 288 waltzes, 1,728 chaine turns, 864 costume changes...

sands of performances. Sometimes, you're just surprised by a new line reading, or you find that you can now stay higher or last fewer than you did on opening night. You get more chances to take chances. This, for any performer, is fantastic. More time to grow, and ultimately get better... just with the process of constant experience.

And it's not, the bad. Or the crazy. Or the paranoid.

Every night before I have to sing a solo—and, I quickly note through the lyrics to make sure they're stuck in my head before I have to perform in front of an audience. Many times (more times than I care to admit), I misread my the lyrics to "The My Own," Center stage, in my oversized coat, dirt on my face, the orchestra swelling... and I center, for the life of me, remember what I'm supposed to sing! "I love him,

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Tonyboy's ...

From page A1

Pilak managing director Christopher Ty on CEO, is a local subsidiary of the Malaysian conglomerate Media Prima Berhad. The agreement has resulted in the recent co-branding of ABC 5 to TV5.

"Before the Malaysians came in, I didn't have the cash flow to develop programs. I needed co-partners. It was hard to go up against Dos, trese 2, and 7," Cojuangco told Inquirer Entertainment in a phone interview. "In [the Malaysians], I found allies."

Like himself, Cojuangco said, his new allies, owners of several established networks in their country, were interested in owning the youth market, viewers from ages 15 to 30. "This coincided with my business plan," the network president said. "The youth, which makes up 30 percent of the population, is the biggest market."

Other platforms

Cojuangco said the Malaysians also shared his view on how to best serve that market. "The [youth] needs her because around 9 p.m. From 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., they'd be in front of the TV. This is a very small 'window' for youth-related programs. The rest of the time, the youngsters would be out driving," he said, adding that this is where the use of radio, mobile TV, the Internet and even billboards comes in. "You have to invest in all platforms."

Cojuangco has also established ties with Direct Satellite TV, which also provides Interaxx news, and the radio station Dream FM.

Media Prima Berhad produces 72 shows in a year. It owns over 30 percent of billboards in Malaysia, runs free English newspapers, controls three FM stations and four free-to-air networks. "I found the perfect match," Cojuangco said. For his part, he brought a share of the air 12-hour transmitter and kept his control over ABC 5's News and Public Affairs department.

Before the Malaysians came into the picture, Cojuangco said, the network tried co-producing shows with blockbuster Solar Entertainment and other Filipino-Chinese corporations. ABC 5 also aired infomercials.

"But these shows are no more, [we] respect matters. The moment the viewers," he recounted. "I had to fired producers because I couldn't put up my own shows. And I had to find people who thought like me."

For the youth shows, Cojuangco said, he had discussions with "third parties." "I don't believe in in-house productions, like Channels 2 and 7. Their shows are all the same," he pointed out. "We welcomed third parties with diverse ideas."

TV5 plans to revise programming every 13 weeks, the equivalent of one season, Cojuangco announced. "People who have new ideas are free to pitch them to us. We will listen. We will give them a break."

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but everyday. I'm learning... HOO CHAT WHAT COMES NEXT?!?!

Sometimes, by some miracle, the muscle memory in my face leads my mouth to the right line. Sometimes... often times... well... I then have my "deer and headlights" moment in front of hundreds (or even thousands) of people.

So, yes... I get panicked. I've promised to never have that "crazed r***-face" look on my face or stage ever again. Ever.

Okay moving on ...

Another possible product of a long run is boredom. It is easy to get mentally punished from doing the same show day in and day out for months, even years. However, I have a feeling that "On Own" will not allow us that, for the simple reason that we'll be traveling to some of the most interesting and beautiful parts of Asia. We'll have our days free to explore and travel, see sights that we've only read about in history books and back issues of National Geographic. I mean, our first city is Davao (still for Xmas... home of the best cotton seed pearls). My history professor Emil accustomed me with them in her class (History class is a Virgo, and now I'll finally get to see them)! I must remember to send her photographs...

"I messed up the lyrics to 'On My Own' more often than I care to admit"

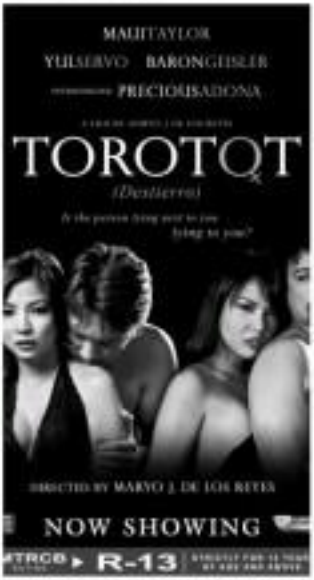
So... how do we keep it fresh, exciting and new? In spite of forgetting, concentration and concentration being the constant phrase, how do we keep the boredom and the paranoia away?

Only one way

Well, there really is only one way to battle the paranoia, and that's just to run through the numbers in your head before it shows, but what about the cast? There have been so many tips and tricks handed down and passed around from one performance to another. Pretend it's the first show. See another play or musical if you can. Read a book backwards. Listen to music different from the show you're doing.

As for me, there is one sure fire way to keep things vibrant and full of life, and that is to look to the people around me, namely, the other guys and girls in the company. Backstage backgammon matches, poker games, knitted owl dances-out, labyrinthing conversations, books exchanged, parties, out of town shows... All these and more have helped keep it fresh for me. And I've also to some extent with quite a few good friends.

I have eight months of Cinderella left, yes... and I have a really great feeling we'll be able to keep it magical. For the audiences and ourselves, until the very end.



CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR	6 YOU DON'T MESS with the ZOHAN
2 LOVING YOU	7 THE CLONE WARS
3 BIG STAN	8 MOONRISE FILM FESTIVAL
4 TOROTOT	9 DOBOL TROBOL
5 THE CLONE WARS	10 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

ERMITA

1 THE CLONE WARS	
2 BIG STAN	6 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR
3 YOU DON'T MESS with the ZOHAN	7 WALL-E
4 TOROTOT	8 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
5 LOVING YOU	9 DOBOL TROBOL

METRO EAST

1 WALL-E	5 YOU DON'T MESS with the ZOHAN
2 TOROTOT	6 LOVING YOU
3 BIG STAN	7 DOBOL TROBOL
4 THE CLONE WARS	8 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

NOVALICHES

1 TOROTOT	3 LOVING YOU
2 THE CLONE WARS	4 DOBOL TROBOL

PIONEER

1 THE CLONE WARS	3 BIG STAN
2 DOBOL TROBOL	4 TOROTOT

STA. ROSA

1 THE CLONE WARS	
2 LOVING YOU	
3 TOROTOT	
4 DOBOL TROBOL	

LIPA

1 MEET DAVE	
2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE	
3 DOBOL TROBOL	
4 LOVING YOU	

DASMARIÑAS

1 LOVING YOU	
2 TOROTOT	
3 THE CLONE WARS	
4 DOBOL TROBOL	

IMUS

1 TOROTOT	
2 DOBOL TROBOL	
3 LOVING YOU	
4 THE CLONE WARS	

ANGELES

1 LOVING YOU	3 WALL-E
2 TOROTOT	4 THE CLONE WARS

STARMILLS

1 LOVING YOU	4 DOBOL TROBOL
2 TOROTOT	5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
3 YOU DON'T MESS with the ZOHAN	6 THE CLONE WARS

BACOLOD

1 THE CLONE WARS	
2 LOVING YOU	
3 WALL-E	
4 MY SASSY GIRL	
5 DOBOL TROBOL	
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE	

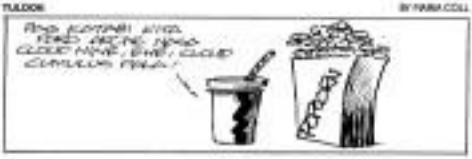
ILOILO

1 THE CLONE WARS	
2 LOVING YOU	
3 WALL-E	
4 MY SASSY GIRL	
5 DOBOL TROBOL	
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE	

GARFIELD

JL LUPIN

TULDOK



PUSONG BABOY

DIVINE COMEDY

MIKROKOSMOS

SALAMIN

BABY BLUES

ATOMO AND WEBBY

LOVESHOTS

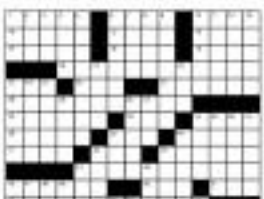
KIKO MACHINE

BEN

DAILY CROSSWORD

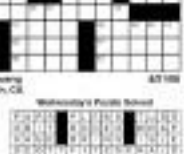
ACROSS
1 Take for a moment
6 Boring person
10 Solar beam
14 Polar feature
15 Unbeatable
16 Jewelry item
17 Fish of Greece
18 Basic word
19 Bird's home?
20 Start of a race
21 Money-managing gurus
23 Polar plant
27 Sound
28 Part 2 of quip
29 Religious chapter
30 Mischievous one
31 Quarterback's call
34 Scrooge's exclamation
37 Pitcher's "Sing-along" 41 Talkative relative
42 Wear thread
43 Spin and quarrel
44 Part 1 of quip
46 Crab bisque
47 Disembodiment
48 Bridge letters
49 CNTR code
50 Cardiovascular unit
51 Take-vegan
52 Learn-ladder
53 Lead to edit
54 Tear down
55 Type of device
60 Fisher's word
61 Fisher's word
62 Punch, e.g.

DOWN
1 Celebration of anarchy
2 A, abbr.
3 Head-shrinker
4 Tweet thought
5 Helps (down)
6 Black eyes
7 Pen Knee 99
8 Latino



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's easy to overestimate your worth and overcook a work holiday. Private work is fulfilling, but don't overdo it. Take in interior duties and tend errands on offers.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your energy is creative and fun-loving today. Enjoy playful, educational activities and hobbies. Sports discussions will be lively. Romance is dueling in leisure hours most of you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're in a good day, child! Use it to make wishes you are lucky to be alive. The night is conducive for parties for yourself and family. Family discussions will go extremely well today. Entertain more.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're currently in the vision and dreaming today. Don't know, in your world. Start now, will please you. It's a good day to get things done. You look for them separately on floor.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Make full of energy and dreaming today. Don't know, in your world. A relaxing, joyful work to buy transfer things, but successful lover. It's a good day to invest in art.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your organizational skills are needed at work today. You may be at your best in public. Visit a park or a beautiful building. You feel inspired and the desire to create is strong.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone is trying to get your attention. Don't argue with delight and please your today. Give yourself an opportunity to use this financial. Seek out some time just for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Enjoy a romantic evening of enjoyment today. Some of you will enjoy a new friend today or an old friend. Enjoy their hospitality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be inclined to give new ideas or new offers. Hard drive considering today. Don't be afraid to express yourself with parents. Patience and authority figures will go extremely well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Take time for your own today if you can. You will particularly enjoy expressing your artistic side. Try something new and bold with yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day to decide to do things with others. Bring with others. Socializing and entertainment. Check out new interests. Check out new interests.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Enjoy good times with others today. Socialize with partners and friends and be open to new ideas. Check out the latest. Supply your imagination. Be open. It's a good day.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

	7	3	2	8				
								2
			6					4
				5		4		6
2								3
5		9		7				
3					4			
1								
				6	5	1	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	7	8	4	3	1	5	2	9
5	9	4	7	6	2	3	1	8
1	3	2	8	9	5	7	4	6
8	6	3	2	1	4	9	7	5
9	5	2	3	7	6	1	8	4
7	4	1	5	8	9	6	3	2
2	9	6	1	4	3	2	5	7
4	1	5	6	2	7	8	9	3
3	2	8	9	5	8	7	4	1

A win worth P5.7M

GRATCHEN with GMA7 exec Wilma Galvante, left. At right, Karylle and Rhian Ramos who alternately hosted the parallel program, "Pinay Idol Abroad."

Some page 61

ered in the competition's most difficult phase.

Contents of the 8,000-seat hall started rolling at 5 p.m. The opening number — four-part "Idol" finalists Daryl Ong, Mikki Canseco, Warren Rong, Penehope, Tolits Pilo, Sue Ellen, Bobby Alvarez, Mae Flores, and Nina Buenaflo, with guests Ika-11 Alejandro, Luke Mejares, Jon Pangan, Sherwin Ramos and Wenie Vergara.

Parting shot

Gretchen, Jaymon and dolphin Ross, dressed in matching gray outfits, sang "Ready to Fly" with local bands Rivermaya, Pupil and Callalily.

In a parting shot, "Idol" Judge Weingard Tracy said he was thankful to the producers for taking the risk." Fellow judge Jolina Magdangal reminded all contestants to "accept the public's decision" while judge Ogie Alcasid urged the public to "support the winners."

Email the author at mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 WALL-E 12:00, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

2 STAR WARS: CLONE WARS 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

3 BIG STAN 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

4 THE MUMMY / ZOHAN 2:00, 4:30 / 7:00, 9:30

STAR WARS 1:45, 4:20, 8:55, 9:30

Watch out for the 2nd International School Film Festival

August 26-28 / September 2-4

Cinema 1, Shang Cineplex

For details log on to www.shangcineplex.com

Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

THEATRE MALL

PROMENADE

1 STAR WARS 2 WALL-E

3 BIG STAN 4 THE X-FILES 5 STAR WARS

POWER PLANT CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER MAKATI

BIG STAN – P/11

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS – G

WALL-E – G

YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS – G

X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE – PG13

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1: 1 DOUBLE TROUBLE; 2 THE X-FILES; 3 LOVING YOU; 4 TOROTOT

GLORIETTA 4: 1 WALL-E; 2 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE; 3 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS; 4 THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR; 5 THE X-FILES; 6 BIG STAN; 7 MY FRIEND IRMA GOES TO CHINA

GREENBELT 1: 1 WALL-E; 2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS

GREENBELT 2: 1 BIG STAN; 2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS; 3 THE X-FILES; 4 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN; 5 WALL-E

ALABANG TOWN CENTER: 1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS; 2 BIG STAN; 3 WALL-E; 4 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE; 5 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN

AYALA CENTER CEBU: 1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS; 2 WALL-E; 3 THE X-FILES; 4 LOVING YOU

MARKET! MARKET!: 1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS; 2 BIG STAN; 3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE; 4 TOROTOT; 5 LOVING YOU

TRINOMA: 1 DOUBLE TROUBLE; 2 LOVING YOU; 3 BIG STAN; 4 TOROTOT; 5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE; 6 WALL-E; 7? STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Everyone's Invited. Are users of FOR THE FIRST TIME. Meet & greet KC Concepcion, Richard Gutierrez & many more. August 23 - Activity Center

Greenbelt — AYALA MALLS presents world-class diva LANI MISALUCHA. August 23, 8PM, Greenbelt 3 Park

Alabang Town Center — Mauro Estrid. August 23 - 24, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — Amazing Stairway Challenge. August 23, Activity Center

Market! Market! — THE DEN 10 MILLIONAIRES LIVE SHOW. LIVE INTERVIEW WITH ISABELA KING AT MEET & GREET. August 22, 23 & 24, 1pm, 5:30pm & 8pm, Activity Center

Christian Life — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's MULAN Jr. August 8 to December 14, 2008. For details, call 8729 7111 or log on to www.repertoryphilippines.com

Ayala Museum — Jose Luis Sobrevilla Paintings from the BPI Collection on view until Aug 31. For details, call 757 0486 or 757 7117 ext 2110 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

Tri Nomia — Last Wednesday Live. Aug. 22, 7pm, Activity Center. Eight Fashion Picks from Young Designers. Aug. 20 Sept. 3, 4th Level Cinema Lobby

FOR THE First Time

STARGAZING

Featuring the cast of FOR THE First Time

August 23, 2008 Saturday 8:00 PM

Glorietta Activity Center

LANI MISALUCHA

Live at The Ayala Malls

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Market! Market! · Tri Nomia

'But by God, there will be dancing!'

By the INQUIRER
and Inquirer.net
Entertainment staff

THIS SPOKE Jules' George at the end of "My Best Friend's Wedding." Did he foresee this?

There were only a few guests but there was much dancing when Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi were married last Saturday night in their Beverly Hills home, according to reports.

In the biggest celebrity union since California legalized same-sex marriage, DeGeneres, 30, and de Rossi, 25, wed in an intimate ceremony People said its Magazine reported. A publicist for DeGeneres confirmed the report.

"One of my favorite people of all time is Ms. Ellen DeGeneres," Katherine Heigl, star of "Grey's Anatomy," told Associated Press Television News at a Hollywood charity event on Saturday night. "So I wish all the best, all the happiness, all the joy that comes with that certificate." Report from AP

New CSI

LOS ANGELES — "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" has added the mystery of who will replace departing CBS series star William Petersen: It's Laurence Fishburne.

Fishburne, who has won Emmy and Tony awards for TV and theater, will be introduced to the series episode of the upcoming 2000 season, the network told The Associated Press on Monday. He'll play a forensic scientist with a secret.

"I am elated and delighted to be joining the cast of 'CSI,'" Fishburne said in a statement, adding that he looked forward to a "wonderful collaboration" with those involved in the series.

The tab date for Petersen's final episode has yet to be determined but will be early next year. Petersen has been with the series since it debuted in fall 2000 and will remain a "CSI" executive producer, the network said. AP

One-on-One

Celebs come out after a drink to be at the opening of "Mother" Ricky Reyes' One-to-One at the ground floor of Tomorrow Bldg., Jewish Boulevard, in Ubi.

Spotted were royalty10 endorser Gloria Romero, Helen Gamboa, Daily Inquirer and Inquirer Pascual; Jocelyn Ilarg, Hazel Santos and Malcolm Garcia; DMB 7 stars Willem Galvante, Dunlop de Jesus and Gigi Santiago Luna; Manilena Mayor Marides Fernandez and Pasig First Lady Maribel Eusebio.

* * *

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

■ Marissa Flores, on reports she burned a make-up artist:

"Never, walang nagpasunog sa make-up-an. Birthday ko na lang nag-invite pa ako. Sino ba? (Tawa) Sino na?

■ Marvin Agustin, asked if he was exacting either Kristine Hermosa or Diana Zubiri:

"Parehas din silang kaibigan. Hindi ko alang nag-aaplay kasama sila." (Is that a yes?)

COMEDIAN and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, left, and actress Portia de Rossi, just married. AG TODD

(From left) Jocelyn Viray, Gloria Romero, Daisy Romualdez, Marides Mayor Marides Fernandez, Ricky Reyes, QMA 7 executive Wilma Galvante, Pasig First Lady Maribel Eusebio

■ Jessy Miller on 'Manila Connection,' who allegedly refused to sit beside her ex-friend-rival:

"Hanggat maari sanang mga kasama dahil aabuong lili ng makatrabaho. Dito wag siguro ang aking kaisuhin. Siguraduhin ko ba ang ganong mangyayari sa iyon?" (Chill po kayo.)

■ Silence on the same incident:

"Nothing to say po, eat-and-run-post ng aking schedule ko ng pumasok na si Angel. Excused kayo hindi ako pumapasok sa mga [sets.]

■ Tom Moro, on reuniting with her ailing father in Japan. He is in jail, so they were separated by a glass wall:

"Masaya. Sobra. Nagpaka-sweet pa kami [sa harapan ni Ambyo] dahil ito ang isa sa mga pinakamahalaga sa buhay. Ang sarap ng pakiramdam. Para wala tayong pake."

■ Yasmien Kurdi, on rumors she got into a fight with Michelle Madrigal, the former girlfriend of her current[ly pregnant] ex, JC de Vera:

"I don't have any enemy in Michelle. Hindi naman siguro pag-aawayan. Bata ako ang nawawala, wala akong kinakaaway. Bahay-taping... it's show life." (And in Spanish...?)

■ JC, asked if he felt anything for Yasmien:

"Marami po talagang [kasi] ngayon pa ay mas pure na pinagsasamahan namin... maaring mangyari." (Silly.)

■ Maxene Magalona, on her dad: If I were [not] in against Indonesia:

"Pa Rico, siyempre it was devastating. I hope nyabing; I wasn't crazy that I'm really very, very sad. But... I cared so for among for my family and for my dad.

■ Following on her alleged rift with Alek delos Alas:

"I don't have close na close na magkaibigan. Siguro po dahil minsan isang kaibigan ka [lamat], mapa-ngayon [pero kasama kayo] sa isa't isa "Or [kaya ayan, ito, or "white, ito"?]

■ Connie Reyes, on avoiding the press when reported with rumored boyfriend [Arnaldo Ortaliz]:

"Kasalan lang naman ng tutuusin na buhay ng isang tulad ko [ano], pano[ramdam na] ang lang 'yon. I hoop to learning gradeon ng during ito." (Or was it, mind we wanna 'your not?)

(Source, Sir Ilene)

E-mail us: mail@inquirer.com.ph